

nothing is going to go ahead. I think, and I trust the district judges to have that discretion. What I'm trying to do is find some sort of a balance between what you have with respect to the Parenting Act and the mediation concept in allowing a different method of reporting alleged child abuse. Frankly, if there is a report of alleged child abuse that the district judge thinks is serious, he is going to stop the whole process, he is going to refer it, it is going to be investigated, and it is going to be pursued like any other investigation. This, however, will allow, in those case where there is not that sort of allegation, the mediation process to continue. I don't feel that this information should be completely confidential. I think there should be an obligation to report it. All we are saying here is that this method of reporting doesn't cause any additional conflict because you have the district judge. An in camera hearing is relatively simple to hold. There can be discussion with the district judge. It is not a public hearing so the confidentiality is maintained. If the judge determines that the allegation is founded or determines that more investigation is merited, then the mediation process is going to stop and you are going to go ahead like I think you should go ahead with the investigation of child abuse. My attempt here is to find a middle ground that basically allows both the mediation process to continue and the continued reporting of child abuse in those cases where it ought to be reported, and I will answer any questions you have about this. I think Senator Chambers has looked at this. I am not sure whether he is convinced this will do it, but I will answer any questions he or any other members have.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Hohenstein. Before I continue with the next speaker, I would like to introduce some special guests of the Legislature today. Under the south balcony, we have former Governor Frank Morrison and six Rotary exchange people from Brazil. Will you folks please stand and be welcomed by the Legislature. Thank you for being with us. Senator Chambers, on the Hohenstein amendment. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, and, Mr. Clerk, I am going to have to ask that you read the amendment again the best you can because I want to be sure that I'm dealing with what's actually up there instead of what Senator Hohenstein and I may have discussed earlier.