

alleged, that seemed to completely break down any chance to mediate or amicably discuss that situation. So in my view you don't disrupt the mediation process when abuse allegations are interjected. Probably at that point, they've already broken down to the point where you are not going to succeed in mediation. There may be those innocent comments made that may be concluded to be abuse, that I think Senator Hohenstein and Senator Chambers are worried about, that could potentially be a problem, but may not be, that gray area, and I think Senator Hohenstein has some ideas with this amendment that might be helpful, but, again, it changes the process. It's like judicial bypass. We already have a system in place for reporting. It seems to me that the better route is to adopt the Ashford amendment that simply says you get notified when you go into mediation that if there is an abuse allegation, there is a requirement by law that it be reported, so people know that up front, and leave it at that, and leave everything else in place because, again, there are others who would love to be taken out of this reporting requirement. Once you start down the road, once you not require it for mediation, when you not require it for a physician, when you not require it for a clergy, when you not require it for the general citizen, I think you start down a slippery slope. So, please do not support the Chambers amendment. Even the Hohenstein amendment, in my view, is not adequate to deal with the problem. I would accept the Ashford amendment in my view as alerting people and having full information made available, but other changes, in my view, would be a mistake. So, please take this issue seriously. It is an important matter, and do not support the Chambers amendment as it's currently constituted.

**SPEAKER BAACK:** Thank you, Senator Wesely. Senator Ashford, on the Hohenstein amendment.

**SENATOR ASHFORD:** Again, Mr. Speaker, maybe we've probably debated this enough, but I would just make a quick point. Senator Wesely has made some...raised some good issues, but I think we have to look at this in the context of the divorce case that we are now in when we go to mediation in a divorce case. We are in mediation, but we are also in a divorce case. If the mediation process were not there, these parties were not mediating, and if the information that we're talking about in sort of generic terms, we haven't really talked about specific examples but I guess we all know what we mean, but if this information came about in a deposition or it came about before