

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...form a partnership, but there is no organizing individual or groups. The responsibility is placed nowhere. I read these amendments. I read what is given to us as E & R amendments and I'll bet I read them more carefully than those who support the bill and I'm going to ask them questions and see. And if they have read these amendments as I have read them, things that are of concern to me should be of concern to them. But as a start, I hope we will take Senator Schimek's amendment, and I have another arrangement I'm willing to work out with Senators Rasmussen, Bohlke and Wesely to try to get to the amendments they want to offer prior to the consideration of mine. But at this point I'm supporting very strongly Senator Schimek's amendment.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Madam President, members, although I appreciate the good intentions of Senator Schimek, I would oppose the Schimek amendment and ask you to oppose it as well. We have changed the provisions of this section dramatically. It is no longer the "learnfare" that you would find in a Wisconsin or other areas that have been studied in this fashion in other states where if you don't have your children attending school, you automatically lose cash assistance. We have accommodated the concerns of those who are opposed to this section. We have changed the language so that now first off it's not mandatory that the money is lost, we make it optional. Second off, we make it a requirement that the parents have not made a reasonable effort to try and get their minor children to attend school. So what you're saying if you adopt the Schimek amendment is, if some parent out there doesn't even make a reasonable attempt to try and get their child to attend school who is on, and the parent is on ADC, that we shouldn't be able to do anything to try and provide an incentive for them to take that action, to try and again, make the point that we have to have education as part of our efforts to reform the welfare system and instead, if somebody is there, a parent who is on ADC and doesn't care about their kids, doesn't say you have to go to school, makes no effort to try and get them to go to school, that's fine, that's okay. I mean that's what you're saying if you adopt the Schimek amendment. Now it says, we encourage you to do that, we'd like you to do that, we hope you'll do that. It's nothing more than words and puffery. It doesn't really amount to anything. If you really care about trying to make