

would have to be on a school district by school district basis, how best to communicate and talk through problems with attendance. And we think...I would oppose the Chambers amendment because it takes out this intent language that I think would be very constructive in dealing with how we should address the problems of attendance of...of minor children in a welfare family. I was trying to find some figures and I have looked at some materials that have indicated...Wisconsin has got "learnfare" much more punitively than I believe the proposal that we have, and the impacts have been positive, as I understand it. There's perhaps a mixed feeling about that but, from the information I got, it sounded to me like there wasn't the negative results that people have been talking about, and, in fact, there were some positive results in increased attendance. So I think the scenario, the worst case scenario that's been outlined will be addressed with amendments that Senator Rasmussen and Bohlke and I are introducing, which deals with an independent mediation process and appeal process and I think with the amendment that Senator Beutler approved, I don't think we have a problem here. I would ask your rejection of the Chambers amendment in opposition to the Schimek amendment and we can move forward with the rest of the bill.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, I want to ask Senator Wesely a question. Senator Wesely, if this is so important, this language that you all want, why don't you have the Legislature direct that this be done as you're directing that other things be done when we're talking about poor people?

SENATOR WESELY: Practically everything, and I'll reemphasize this, Ernie, is intent here. None of this language and none of the sections here can go forward without a reenactment by the Legislature. So, basically, all that we're dealing with here is intent anyway, so this reflects that status.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Wesely, are you telling me that this language, if I put the Legislature directs this to happen, that this would go forward when everything else does not go forward with approval by the Legislature?

SENATOR WESELY: No, it would have no different effect because these sections, under the waiver, all have to come back to us