

followed by Senators Rasmussen and Bohlke.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you, Mr. President and members of the body, I just rise to say that, for me, this will make the "learnfare" provision of this bill much more palatable and I would encourage the adoption of the Chambers amendment.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Schimek. Senator Rasmussen.

SENATOR RASMUSSEN: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I, too, rise in support of this amendment. I think I'm going to overuse the word "intend" or "intent" but I appreciate and I'm learning full well here the need for people to have an understanding of...of all the conversations that led up to the introduction of this legislation, as well as all the conversations that have gone on since the original introduction to make sure that people understand what we're talking about doing here. It is a complex issue and I...and I actually applaud people who are challenging the legislation. I think, and I have said all along, that it deserves full debate. It is a major policy change and I do hope that we will get to substantive parts of the legislation so everyone is fully aware of what is in it before they vote yes or no on it. This particular amendment, I think, reflects the tone of what we are talking about in the sense that we don't want to beat up on people, we simply want to make a clear message that getting children to school is an important thing to do and is a responsibility of parents to do to the best of their ability. And, with this language, I'm very comfortable that what we're saying is it's not to be done in a way that would cause a hardship for the family but simply make clear the message about the importance of making every effort to get their children to school. With that, I would urge that you support this amendment.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Bohlke.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Mr. President, members, I, too, rise in support of the Chambers amendment and just to say that I appreciate Senator Crosby and Senator Chambers, both, as they expressed their concerns, coming forward with what I think are constructive ideas, some we adopt, some we don't, but that we welcome that on this bill as we continue to work through it and this is one suggestion that I...I, too, support. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Chambers, there are no further lights