

deal directly with either of those. It goes only to the amount of time that the mother would be able to spend with the after-born child or the one...

SPEAKER WITHEM: Time.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...born out of time.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Rasmussen.

SENATOR RASMUSSEN: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I think there's some confusion about how this might impact other parts of the legislation and I think Senator Chambers already mentioned that. This is my understanding of how it would work. If we say a child born after 10 months of the initiation of the contract or agreement between the state and the recipient, we have said that they have to return to full-time participation within 12 weeks. What Senator Chambers is changing that to is they have to return to full participation after 6 months and that they would be required, just like we required on other children born under the 10-month period of time, part-time participation in such things as parent education, job training skills, those kinds of activities. The other thing I would share with you that by doing this, we would not extend the two-year limit. Now I know there will be arguments against that later but this amendment will not change the fact that a person will need to...will not get a six-month extension of the two-year agreement by having a child at this point. They will still only get the 12 weeks. Now the concern that came up in the original discussions about why did we come up with 12 weeks, and that was in response to our effort to try and make this policy the same policy as everybody else has to deal with out there that isn't on welfare and that 12 weeks is what we do now in terms of maternity leave. I would suggest that if someone has a job anything we come up with policy doesn't direct how much time they get off from that job. We can't give someone permission to have 6 months off of that job if 12 weeks is the policy of that company. So if they have a job, that job environment will dictate what kind of leave they have for maternity leave and I'm seeing some nods from Senator Chambers so I'm still with him on this. The difference here is just in the discussion of the requirements for participation other than employment which would be things like job search, education and training and, well, not the parent education at this point, but what it would mean is that they would have to do the part-time