

should it not be full time? I'm just exploring what the rationale is for this.

SENATOR RASMUSSEN: I believe the rationale was in recognition of the need for some time to adjust to the birth of that child, to have some time with that child before you go back full time and it also allows for time for a focus on parent education and improving nurturing skills, those kinds of things. And I think the logic for not doing it for the additional children was that you had that opportunity with the first time in terms of getting the parent education and those kinds of inputs as well as trying to make it commensurate with the family leave policy. But I think the intention was to recognize in the early months there was a need for more time between the parent and the child.

SENATOR BEUTLER: I guess when I think of this, and perhaps I could well be out of touch with what is happening with most women out in society, but I know that there are an awful lot of women that I know who go back to work before 12 weeks, who when they do go back to work don't go back to work part time, they are required to go back to work full time and I think one of the things that...there are two aspects to this whole welfare situation. One is the discrepancies that Senator Chambers brings up where welfare patients are treated worse than society generally, but the other part that makes welfare hard to deal with is when welfare patients are dealt with better than substantial portions of the population who are doing their own self-sufficiency thing and out there working. And let me just ask you, is not a provision that says that after 12 weeks you only have to go to part-time activities, isn't that really better than a substantial portion of the women out there right now, a better deal than they have?

SENATOR RASMUSSEN: It really is, Senator, but I would also draw to your attention and I would expect somewhat of a smile from those who are opposed to this, but I'd also draw to your attention that the policy before this for people on welfare has been that they don't have to go to do anything until the child is over a year. So we are dropping this significantly by saying 6 months or at least even part-time participation between 12 weeks and 6 months.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay. The other thing I wanted to ask you about is on page 15 of the bill. It talks about full participation in the activities with respect to minor parents