

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

January 29, 2004 LB 172

physician-patient relationship, the only way that can be breached is by obtaining a court order directing such to be done. You all might be familiar with the fact that Rush Limbaugh was accused of doctor shopping. And he and his lawyer even sought a plea bargain where he would admit it. But he wanted a break, and the prosecutor said no. Rush Limbaugh's medical records were obtained, but the judge insisted that they be sealed until additional information is taken to determine whether they ought to be opened. To Rush Limbaugh's considerable elation, in this set of circumstances the ACLU joined the action on his side, saying the records should remain sealed. Rush Limbaugh, for all of his hatefulness and contempt for the ACLU, did not reject their help, did not call them pinkos, did not call them bloody bleeding liberals who are coddling criminals, because he's in that category himself now, Senator Aguilar, so in his mind he can rationalize by saying, I'm the very kind of person the ACLU ought to help; I'm a criminal, but I just haven't been officially labeled that yet. But at any rate, there is the doctor-patient relationship. Psychiatrists who are medical doctors enjoy a similar relationship with their patient, and the purpose of that is so that individuals who need healing, whether it's a healing of the mind, the body, or the spirit, will have someplace to go and deal with an individual who is not going to rat them out. That is the concept that I'm building on here. When a young person reposes trust in an individual who is connected with the schools and is going to tell that person information that she may not tell to anybody else, she should be able to do it with the assurance that this far will the request go and no farther. That's the purpose of my amendment. There's another relationship where confidentiality is to obtain, and that's in the confessional. But people do not always enjoy safety, because there are people who have been victimized by the one to whom they confessed, after confessing to certain activities that may have indicated that person had a weakness. But nevertheless, there are confidential relationships that the law recognizes. I would like to create that relationship here. I do not think it's unreasonable. If anybody has any question about it, I'm prepared to answer it. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. As our Speaker