

It very clear what the contents of the public records are in anything that is actually admitted into the record as evidence and becomes a part of the official record as public information. We also make it very clear that the court does have the authority to make the distinction as far as confidential, medical and psychiatric records are concerned and to exclude them from the record. And so that makes it absolutely clear in statute what will or will not be in the public record so that every time the press wants access to this type of information which should be public information, they do not have to go to court and challenge it and try to obtain that information. So I think it is an important procedural amendment, one that does give the public the right to know what is going on in this area. Now we are making a distinction here as far as public access to this information is concerned. As you know in an involuntary civil commitment those proceedings before the mental health commitment board are private proceedings. Those proceedings are not open to the public. The results of those proceedings are not made available to the public but here the public has an interest because this is a judicial proceeding. It is not the same type of a proceeding as exists before the mental health commitment board. In addition, the individual has distributed or has exhibited some violent tendencies. The public is concerned about the dangerous aspects and the public is very interested in what happens to these specific individuals. Now the press finds out but they don't find out officially. They find out by calling the regional center or something else and I think it is important that we make it clear that this information is public. The other distinction that I think is a point that I think we need to make for the record and this is a distinction between what Senator Nichol and Senator DeCamp may be proposing later but something that is important is the standard that we propose and the difference between this standard and, or maybe I should wait until they propose their amendments on this. I will just wait until, see if Senator Nichol and Senator DeCamp offer their amendments and if they do I will address the distinctions in standards at that time, but I do urge you to adopt these amendments now.

SENATOR NICHOL: Senator Schmit. Senator Schmit, are you in the room? Would somebody get Senator Schmit out of the phone booth, please? Senator Hoagland, I guess it is okay to close.

SENATOR HOAGLAND: I really have no closing, Mr. President. I think I have attempted to explain the amendments. If anyone has any questions I would be happy to try to answer them, otherwise, I have nothing further.