

SENATOR LANDIS: What's it mean? Confidential means what? Does it mean that nobody else is present? Are the proceedings in camera? Does it mean that the bailiff is not there? Does it mean that when you file your petition that you do it at the regular counter, in the regular book, put it into a public record which could be perused at any time by anyone else? Is that confidentiality? It says that there is going to be written findings by a judge. Normally those orders are available and put into a public record. Are those available to the public? This says the procedures are confidential with no indication as to whether the proceeding is in camera, whether anyone else is present or the public can walk into the door, whether or not the public, for example as I would anticipate, would be able to sit in a hallway in the courthouse and demonstrate against a young girl going in and asking for a judicial bypass. Happens on the streets of Omaha. Happens in an abortion clinic, woman walks in trying to get treatment and she is harassed on the street by people who are persuaded that she's making a mistake. What says that won't happen in a courthouse? And yet the promise of this bill is the proceeding is confidential. Will there be anybody else present? In Minnesota they found that as many as 23 people handled the documents and dealt with the case who were not the judge or the girl, as many as 23 came in regular contact with this matter. And then you have the creation of a public record, the petition in front of the court and the court order, all of which are available for public inspection under normal rules. Now maybe that's not the case. But this bill doesn't say it. All it does is have what appears on its face a very empty promise of confidentiality. Where is it? What does it mean? How is that going to get carried out? The bill doesn't say. The promise is empty and the bill needs that written in the event it is to be actually a confidential proceeding. You'll find it on page 4 of the bill. You'll see that the proceeding is supposed to be confidential, but if it is, in effect, to insure that the child is dealing with a judge and the judge only, that's not what happened in Minnesota, that's at odds with what happens when there is a written finding that is part of a public record. There is no support here for a...on the face of it that allows for a closed court room, if, in fact, that is the case then you need to say that. If, in fact, there is supposed to be a special record that is not open to the public, then you need to say it, because every petition that you file goes into a big book down there, and I can walk down to the Hall of Records and get each and every child's name who has petitioned, if it's