

the passage of 509 as it is. What my amendment does is change the language, and the language is, "to the extent the contents of the paper and files may be withheld from the public under sections of the Public Records Law or any other statute that expressly provides that particular information or record shall not be made public". So I think it says exactly what this bill was intended to do, and that's to take those areas that are already named open by the Public Records Law and let them remain open. And those areas that are not already mentioned in statute, to seal off those areas. And this includes auditing...this is not just the Legislature, this is the state colleges, the Nebraska lottery, the employee retirement system, all the departments, the Historical Society, these are all areas that this bill will affect. I think it was written much more broadly than was intended even and I think that if you will adopt this amendment it will be much more specific to what the intent of this legislation was, and that's to seal off the working papers. In the case of say a Department of Social Services where they have needed to look at the working papers, and I think in my opinion keep that accountability to the public on taxi cab rides and those type of working papers that might come up into an audit, I don't want to seal those off to the public, I want those accessible to the public and to the press. I think that's part of having a good open government here in America, here in Nebraska is that accountability, is that openness with these records to the press. And I understand the concerns of individuals on the floor who want to seal off some of these records and have concerns. And what you're trying to do here is define which records are still...really we're trying to just define a little more what the public records statute encompasses. And that's what this amendment would do. It would say that those papers that at this time are open to the public, under the Public Records Law, are still going to be open to the public, and that the other working papers that would be involved in an audit and available now would no longer be available. And even though that final report is always available and is covered under the Public Records Law, this...we're talking about the working papers that are compiled to get to that final report. So that would involve a lot of the recordkeeping to seal that off. But we have already had state statute...you're amending that public record state statute with this law to seal off all those areas, and I think that's more than...it's certainly more than I wanted to do. I hope it's more than a majority of senators on this floor want to do, and I hope that you will adopt this first Witek amendment. It would put this bill in a