

page 23, lines 1 through 7. With that I'd like to ask your consideration of this amendment. I think it's important to all of us and especially to our citizens that we do consider this confidentiality problem as a separate issue. And I'm pleased that the department has asked me to bring this amendment. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Dierks. Senator Crosby would like to announce that the following guests are visiting the Legislature this morning. There are twenty second graders here from Rousseau Elementary School and their teacher. They are all in the north balcony. Will you stand and be recognized please. Welcome to the Legislature. Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Madam President and members. I rise in support of the Dierks amendment. Senator Dierks has, as he indicated, worked previously on other issues dealing with confidentiality. In the health and human services field we have many records that are very important to people, that we have adopted confidentiality regulations regarding whether it be AIDS, which is an area Senator Dierks has worked on, or whether it'd be vital statistics or what have you. We have to be very cautious. This is very personal information. And there was no intent in the original bill to open that up in a way that we would not like it to be opened. But at the same time we have to balance it off with a need to share information so we can combine information systems and coordinate services. So I think this route in the amendment is appropriate, we'll take out the language now, we'll look at this further because it's a fine line, you need to have access to information, but you also don't need access to some information. And try to get that a little more carefully defined is appropriate and I rise in support of the Dierks amendment. He has worked very hard on this particular issue and he is right in the proposal as to balancing out the various concerns that he has on this. So I think it's a good amendment.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Madam President. Senator Dierks, I won't ask how hard you worked on the amendment because I think I know the process of how the decision was made. And I'm sure you had a very...or a large, strong input in that, and