

SPEAKER WITHEM: Yes, members of the body, I think Senator Bernard-Stevens was...then I actually didn't hear the last couple of minutes of what he had to say. So, seriously, I didn't, I got pulled out, so I don't know what his logical conclusion was. But I was following along with him during the first few minutes of his remarks, and I think that was an excellent speech on the importance of collaborative information and exchange of information. Like Senator Bernard-Stevens, I've been to a number of these conferences where they talk about collaborative approaches, and that is one of the really key, key elements to making any one of these work. The problem is, and I support the Dierks amendment, by the way. I guess I hadn't got to that point. I may have sounded like I'm moving in the other direction. I support the Dierks amendment because as we discovered yesterday, the language in here exempting the...exempting this information from confidentiality requirements is too broad. And there probably isn't time to craft the exact language that we need, so this is the appropriate way to deal with it. There is language, there are records that ought not to be shared. And I think all of us would agree with that. However, the ability of the Department of Health and the Department of Social Services and the juvenile justice system, to be able to exchange information back and forth so that they can work on the problems of a given individual, that's at the core of what we're trying to accomplish through this collaboration that we're enacting here. So I hope those individuals who will be working on this plan heard Senator Bernard-Stevens' remarks because I think they were on point, but at this point I think the appropriate approach is to support the Dierks amendment and I plan to do so.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Withem. Senator Dierks.

SENATOR DIERKS: Thank you, Madam President and members of the body. I just wanted to reassure the body, and especially Senator Bernard-Stevens, that I think it's essential also that these, these departments share information. And they'll be able to do that. But this confidential information is what I am concerned about, and the maintaining confidentiality of it. And I'm sure that the courts have an idea that's different from the front-line workers and from departments, but I think that that's what we talk about and that's what we iron out during this interim. I, for one, will be insisting that this confidentiality be maintained, the confidentiality that I'm