

SENATOR COORDSEN: Senator Bernard-Stevens, on your amendment.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Mr...

SENATOR COORDSEN: The call is raised, by the way.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: ...Senator Coordsen, thank you, and members of the body. This amendment is one actually that I did not draft, it was drafted by the minds behind the glass that are pushing 1044, and it dealt with the confidentiality. Let me kind of review what we've done. And I think...I'm not sure what Senator Wesely or Senator Withem or others are going to do. I think deep down they agreed, the amendment is...I can't speak for them. I'd be.... I think as far as I'm concerned the amendment is a good faith amendment, it's something that we need to do. In the green copy of 1044 there was a lot of concern that we wanted to have information shared between the entities, you get to have communication between regulation and services. And you've got three...five different agencies, and we want them to share that information. What we did, by the Dierks' amendment earlier, is we struck all reference, for the most part, to dealing with the sharing of information and put in an interim study. My concern was and still is, and this amendment will correct that concern, my concern was here's what I believe department people will do. They will not know what...they will not be sure what is confidential or not, or what they may or may not share. And they will say, for the most part, and err on the side of being conservative, they will say, since we're not share...not certain that we can share this information, they have an interim study, let's wait until the interim study in the Legislature gives us guidelines, and thus the sharing that we need, the whole cornerstone of working together for partnership will not happen in the way that is envisioned. What this amendment does is simply add the following language, we still keep the interim study that Senator Dierks wants to do, and which I think is a good idea. And it simply adds the following, nothing in the Nebraska Partnership for Health and Human Services Act shall be construed to prohibit the sharing of information among programs delivering services to individuals in order to provide coordinated service to such individuals. In other words, if the groups are working together with an individual to find what is in the best interest of that individuals' services, they will be able to share the information necessary for that service. They simply will be