

not in the Department of Social Services, wanted that information, Social Service would give it, wouldn't they?

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: I don't believe so, Senator, but I would also concur with you that someone within the department, if they felt for some reason they should give it, there is nothing to stop that at this point. Just like the HIV, if information gets out, you can't ever take back that information. You can only provide for punishment of which there is very little.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: So we really don't have any assurances that confidential information will be maintained as confidential information?

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: If you want an absolute assurance, no.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And this amendment would move us even farther away from that assurance by indicating that the Legislature is tolerant or desirous of this information being exchanged?

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: That's where you and I disagree.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Members of the Legislature, I don't like this bill anyway and these types of amendments, whose ramifications are not really clear to me, are not the kinds of things that I will support. I have said, again and again, and I will continue to say it, that this is a political bill offered during a political year, and I don't think anybody on this floor knows all of the ramifications. And when I read comments by Mr. Leuenberger, he was pointing out that they don't have all the details; those things will be determined as the result of some studies and information gathering, and that may not even be available by the time this so-called merger is to take place. So we're being told right now by those who are most intimately involved that they don't have the answers to questions. They may not, in my opinion, have all the questions asked, but we're being asked to make this drastic move. I know that some of the member at least have been contacted by the UNL professor who had done some consulting work for one of the northeastern states, who had done a similar thing and had to abandon it after about three years because all...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.