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FLOOR DEBATE

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I haven't been on the floor for the whole debate, so maybe I've missed bits and pieces here and there, but I believe that this is absolutely essential. I believe that it is something that the public really is asking of us. I think that they are asking even more, but at the very least they are wanting to have the kind of information that will help us evaluate our state policy. How on earth are we ever going to get to it if we can't go into some of these confidential records, if we're going to insist that all these records be retained confidentially? I mean, this is a totally different kind of program than almost anything that we have out there. Most of our programs out there don't have the amount of confidential information that we're talking about here. So I understand Senator Brown's concerns and I will be listening carefully to see if Senator Beutler can flesh this out a little bit more for us, but the overall concept I'm definitely supportive of and I will continue to be supportive until I hear something that dissuades me that there's a better way to do it. And with that, Senator Beutler, would you like the rest of my time?

SPEAKER BROMM: Senator Beutler, you have two minutes and 40 seconds.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Schimek, thank you. You know, I'm really sorry that people aren't dealing straight up with the merits of the argument and, except for Senator Brown's questions with regard to details of how this might be worked out, it seems to me that people don't want to face the policy argument. Now, you can talk about term limits in this body, but what does that have to do with anything, except if you want to say that because this body has term limits it should give up its power to review the executive branch and the performance of the different departments of the executive branch because term limits is here? Well, that will certainly be the first critical detrimental thing that term limits will bring on, and does that mean we should give up performance audits for all departments of government? Should we just give up the Performance Audit Committee? Unless you are willing just to give away your duty and one of your functions, the idea of term limits has nothing to do with this. Secondly, it is not Beutler doing policy analysis. This committee is controlled by majority vote. It