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April 13, 2004 LB 625

SENATOR BROWN: ...agree...thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: It's now your time, Senator Brown.

SENATOR BROWN: But I do agree that everyone should have the opportunity for fair housing, and that testing is an important aspect of it. I do not feel that this has been handled well, or even fairly, or even honestly, by some of the people who have raised objections, because in every single case, objections have been raised at the eleventh hour, with the exception of the issues that were raised when the bill was in committee. If...you know, if your concern is about the HUD funding, and that is a very important concern, I would be like Senator Chambers and urge you to read the letter. The letter deals with two things: the release of information to the interested parties, the respondent and the aggrieved person, which our state law says they can receive it at any time; and secondly, it deals with the release, the public release to the press of information about conciliation agreements. Two different things? Yes. The conciliation is a part of this in that the individuals, the respondent must determine whether or not, within ten days, they are going to enter into conciliation when they are served notice. But I think the far more important aspect of this is what our state law already says, and what we are...what kind of information we are going to provide to the people who run these companies, so that they can make sure that the activities that are going on within their companies reflect the right kind of practices, and are fair. And that's why I think that LB 625 is important. And I believe that if you go through the materials that have been provided, that they would allay your fears rather than cause you to have fears about the possibility of problems with the HUD funding. And as I said before, if we...if during the hearing there is any indication that there will be decertification, the federal government generally gives you, a state, the opportunity to change the statute. And I would be the first person that would bring a change in statute if that were necessary. But I believe that the underlying LB 625 is very important, I believe that the language that is before us is important, because it is the NEOC's language to narrow the scope. Thank you.