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or is this a new addition? And also then, could you repeat again why you feel that this, the home visitation program, is important.

SENATOR HOWARD: Well, actually, although we'd like to think this is a new concept, a number of years ago, when I began working in social work, visiting nurses did go into homes and did provide services to young parents or parents that have a special need, or parents that really need support, and it was wonderful, and they would work hand-in-hand with the social workers. I thought it was one of the best programs that we really had available, especially at that time early on in my career of doing social work. Due to budget cutbacks and restraints and social changes, I suppose, those things really were eliminated over a period of time, which is unfortunate. So we really are bringing back an idea that had a place in time, was effective, and I believe is going to be very effective again for us. So thank you.

SENATOR STUHR: Okay. And we've talked about the new reporting requirements. Again, why do you feel that those are important?

SENATOR HOWARD: Thank you so much for asking that question. Actually, this gives me an opportunity to address a question that was presented by Senator Synowiecki, as well. The contracts that the state has with private entities, private agencies, do require reporting. However, the problem has come in where agencies have either, for want of a better word, slacked off on providing that information, or the department simply hasn't enforced that and has not offered that in a concise form so we can do a good determination if...about whether we are getting what we're paying for, frankly, or whether we are playing into a political idea of let's contract out, let's contract out and let it go at that. When I was doing my case management on adoptions in foster care, the department had three contracts with three private agencies. The contract had gone for four years. I had never seen a report provided by the agency in terms of results, goals, what had been achieved over that period of time and at what cost. So what we are asking for here is simply information. Let's look at what we're paying. Let's look at what we're getting. Let's look at what