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LB 478

SENATOR CORNETT: Yes, Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Cornett, would you feel willing to say, his or her duties, this person, must meet eligibility requirements for access to classified information, and must in fact handle and deal with classified information as a part or requirement of his or her job?

SENATOR CORNETT: I would not have a problem with that language.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay. Thank you. That's all I will ask you. But members of the Legislature, do you see how this would need to be tightened down? The language simply coming from an executive order is not sufficient for our purposes, in my opinion. An executive order does not serve the function of judicial scrutiny of a legislative enactment. An executive order empowers, authorizes, allows, or prohibits something from being done which the President has the authority as President to do by way of an executive order. Just like the President said that the only stem cell lines that can be used for stem cell research, if they're fetal tissue, can only be those contaminated lines that already exist. He can do that by executive order, as he did, and Congress is trying to overcome it. But if a law was in place relative to stem cell research, there would be more in the way of analysis and scrutiny than a President has to go through to just write and sign an executive order. So this language may serve the purposes that the President had in mind. And I don't know what they were. But it is not sufficient to overcome, in my opinion, the requirements of equal protection of the law for similarly situated people. I'd like to ask Senator Cornett a question.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Cornett.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Cornett, do you know what this executive order was dealing with? I don't.

SENATOR CORNETT: Yes, I do. Hold on a moment. I'll get a copy of that file.