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FLOOR DEBATE

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embraces both male and female.

SENATOR COMBS: Thank you. I appreciate that definition there.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And I'm glad for that opportunity to clarify it. Thank you, Senator Combs.

SENATOR COMBS: You bet. Okay. I really am speaking a little bit more to the bill. I had put my light on before Senator Chambers had filed his amendment. I would like a few things to appear on the record because, as Senator Chambers indicated, this is going to become a problem probably after...and maybe sooner, but...it could, but probably long after we are term limited out. I just pulled up the CDC and this is called the current situation of avian bird flu as of February 15. Says human health risks during an H5N1 outbreak: Of the few avian influenza viruses that have crossed the species barrier to infect humans, which we've already talked about, H5N1 has caused the largest number of detected cases of severe disease and death in humans in the current outbreaks in Asia and Europe. And, by the way, what I pulled up, there are 23 countries right now that have these outbreaks, and I was just looking that, of the 23, all 11 countries that we have employees that come to Farmland to work from are on here: Europe and Asia, East Asia and the Pacific, the Near East, both Iran and Iraq. So very interesting if you want to pull up the CDC web site. There are 23 countries right now that have this. Says most cases have occurred in previously healthy children and young adults; however, it's possible that the only cases currently being reported are those in the most severely ill people, and that the full range of illness caused by the H5N1 virus has not yet been defined. That's pretty scary. So far, the spread of H5N1 virus from person to person has been limited and has not continued beyond one person. Nonetheless, because all influenza viruses have the ability to change, scientists are concerned that H5N1 virus one day could be able to infect humans and spread easily from one person to another. Because these viruses do not commonly infect humans, there's little or no immune protection against them in the human population. If H5N1 viruses were to gain the capacity to spread easily from person to person, an influenza pandemic, which is what we mentioned before--worldwide outbreak of the