



Hundredth Legislature - Second Session - 2008
Introducer's Statement of Intent
LB 1031

Chairperson: Joel Johnson
Committee: Health and Human Services
Date of Hearing: February 13, 2008

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

LB 1031 would allow researchers that possess Certificates of Confidentiality as issued by the National Institutes of Health and that meet Institutional Review Board standards at their own academic or research institutions, greater access to information regarding child and elder abuse.

Certificates of Confidentiality are issued by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to researchers in order to protect identifiable research information on research participants from forced disclosure. Researchers can not be forced to reveal any of the identifying information to any criminal, civil, administrative, legislative or other proceeding, whether at the federal, state or local level.

An Institutional Review Board is a control on the same information at either an academic or research facility. Its purpose is to provide an internal layer of oversight on the researcher, as the Certificate of Confidentiality provides an external control.

There is a serious problem with youth violence in our state. As a practical matter, it is virtually impossible to conduct meaningful research regarding child abuse and neglect, youth violence, family violence, community violence, and elder abuse over time if researchers are unable to know the identity of the subjects of the reports of child abuse and neglect and elder abuse and follow their life circumstances.

LB 1031 would allow researchers better access to this data, while preserving the highest levels of confidentiality of the participants.

Principal Introducer: _____
Senator Brad Ashford