

to release these medical records. What the committee amendment does is say, each and every time the Department of Public Institutions wishes to have access to and release these medical records, they have to specifically go back and specifically request from the individual or from their legal representative the right to release this information so that it would protect their rights much more than the bill as introduced. So I would ask your support for the committee amendments.

PRESIDENT: Is there discussion on the committee amendments? If not, the motion is to adopt the Public Health Committee amendments to LB 315. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote nay. We are voting on the adoption of the Public Health Committee amendments to LB 315. Please record your vote. Please record your vote on the committee amendments to LB 315. The Clerk will record the vote.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays on adoption of the committee amendments, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: The committee amendments are adopted. Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. There we go. Had the wrong bill number up there. That's all right. Ladies and gentlemen, LB 315 is a bill introduced by myself and Senator Withem. It was brought to us by the Department of Public Institutions. The problem that we had was that there was absolutely no authorization right now for the department to release or make available medical records of those people that are in institutions under DPI and that absolute prohibition has caused some problems where the FBI and the insurance companies may need to have access to these records. There was no way whatsoever at this point that DPI could make that available to them. Now they would like to be able to do that and it is really in the cases they are interested in I think perhaps in the best interest of the patients there. In the case of the FBI, maybe not in their best interest but nevertheless no release of any medical records can be allowed without the written authorization of the individual involved or their legal representatives. So they have absolute control over the release of their information. Even now if they went to them and said, could you possibly let us...release your medical records, they could not say, yes, you can and do anything with it. It is