

next amendment, the call is raised, by the way; before we proceed to the next amendment, I would like to introduce two guests of Senator Schellpeper. They are under the north balcony. We have Angie Lutz (phonetic) and Jennie Meyer (phonetic). Would you please stand and be welcomed by the Legislature. Thanks for being with us. Next item, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Nelson would move to amend the bill. The amendment is on page 1488 of the Journal.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Nelson.

SENATOR NELSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I am trying to get this to be, if possible, the best bill that we possibly can, and what my amendment would do is it would change on page 3, line 8, strike "human life within the womb of" and insert "embryo or fetus carried by", and on line 9, strike "unborn child's" and insert "fetus". I am not as knowledgeable on technically and so on and so forth on, as sure as Senator Dierks. I remember last year he was very, very, in medical terms, very, very good. What I am saying is that the unborn child is a religious issue or an issue that is some people believe in one respect, and others that in a different religious view. My amendment is a very simple amendment, and it would change or reflect the appropriate and correct medical terms. Up to eight weeks, the appropriate term is an embryo. After eight weeks, the embryo becomes a fetus, and after approximately 28 weeks, 24 to 28 weeks, it becomes a growing baby. Fertilization of about 3 1/2 weeks, the embryo is about 1/30th of an ounce, at 6 1/2 weeks. At 8 weeks, the transition then becomes from embryo to a fetus, and the word "fetus embryo" is a Greek word which means a swelling, and it starts then, technically, which, a swelling, and then it starts to become technically a fetus at about 8 weeks of time. And then a fetus until the time that it is able to survive outside of the mother's body, and my amendment would simply do this. My amendment eliminates the emotional and the religious-based terminologies which we all do not agree with. I remember from last year the Jewish religion, life begins at birth. I don't know if that's...I would have a hard time with that. The terminology in this bill gives preference to the teaching of certain religious groups. It is not appropriate and even dangerous to write specific religious beliefs into law. And abortion is a religious issue. Some religions hold that ensoulment occurs at the moment of conc tion. Others believe