

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office  
FLOOR DEBATE

February 4, 2002 LB 824

SENATOR FOLEY: Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker, Mr. President. Senator Chambers, the...the human zygote is really not comparable to a muscle cell or any other cell of the body. The human zygote contains the entire genetic code of the human person. Whether or not, for example, people like you and I have gray hair and when we get it is all determined at that instant. How tall we'll be or how short we might be, what color we would be, how big our feet will be, it's all determined at that instant. The entire progress of the human person is mapped with the genetic code of the human zygote, so it's not comparable at all to just another cell of the body that will split and divide, or a cancerous cell. I'd like to just read into the record the language that Senator Chambers voted for 27 years ago, if I can find it. I think I'll pass on this opportunity to speak. I'm going to have to find that and read it into the record at a future opportunity. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Foley. Senator Wickersham.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Mr. President, I have thought that I would not comment further on this bill, but the discussion this morning between Senator Schimek, Senator Chambers and Senator Foley has touched upon what I think the central issue here is. Are we going to pass a criminal law that in fact criminalizes and allows an act to be prosecuted that we care about? Some harm to a woman that results in the loss of a pregnancy, that's what we should be talking about. But, on the other hand, this issue has become inextricably intertwined with people's personal beliefs. Now, I understand that we can seek to place our personal beliefs into law. We're all entitled to seek that. But when we seek to place our personal beliefs into the criminal laws so that someone else will have to act in accordance with our personal beliefs, we need to be careful about that. We do need to make sure that the terms that we use are more than our personal belief. We need to make sure that the terms that we use are understood by the courts and that ultimately, if someone else reads the personal beliefs that we have expressed in words, that they will know what we mean, and they will know what they can and cannot do or, more specifically in this instance, what they should not do to avoid the penalties of law. The real