

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

January 14, 2004 LB 270

Organization has also begun collecting data on the link between homicide and pregnancy. Krulewitch and her team hope that on the basis of their data and others now being collected routine screening for domestic violence during pregnancy will soon be implemented. Without a body of evidence, however, it is impossible to get funding for screening, support and prevention programs. Once we quantify the problem, we can start to deal with contextual issues, she says. The study also found that younger women were at greater risk of death during pregnancy, with teenagers in the highest risk category. Chong, a former federal police officer who killed her husband in a violent struggle after he closed the car door on her stomach during a third pregnancy in 1993, is now devoting her life to teaching those young women about the violence they may encounter. She points to her own life story and the shooting of former NFL player Rae Carruth's pregnant girlfriend as examples, saying some men believe it's easier to get rid of the baby and the woman than to deal with child support. Like Krulewitch, Chong thinks screening for domestic violence during pregnancy is critical. Her daughter, now a teenager, has had difficulties learning, and her right arm is set at a permanent 90-degree angle. Everyone believes in human rights and there's a lot of talk about the rights of the unborn child, but what are we going to do to protect her, she asks. This is a...I'm going to read from a press release, February 15, year 2001, a marriage (sic) College of Nurse Midwives. The title of their press release is, "Violent Deaths of Pregnant Women: The Hidden Epidemic." It's from Washington, D.C., again, February 15, year 2001: "The leading cause of death among pregnant women is homicide, according to a study published in the current issue of the American College of Nurse-Midwives; Journal of Midwifery and Women's Health." The study authors revealed...excuse me, reviewed 651 autopsy charts from the D.C. Chief Medical Examiner's Office from cases from 1998 (sic) until 1996. The researchers discovered 13 homicides of pregnant women that had not been reported, with the 21 maternal deaths from medical causes, example, hemorrhage and infection. "These 13 unreported deaths account for 38 percent of pregnancy-associated deaths. The shocking revelation is that the leading cause of pregnancy-associated deaths--homicide--is unreported and unknown to the public."