

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

January 22, 2004 LB 602

Legislature. First of all, I want to compliment the body for debating such an emotional issue in a calm and adult fashion. I'm against recommitting to committee, and support of LB 602, simply because the general outline and understanding of this is that we are creating life in order to destroy it for the sake of research. There's not one of us in here who are against research. And I don't think there's one of us in here that do not want to do what we can to save the life of another or to make one's life more comfortable. From time to time, I hear the argument about somebody who's had diabetes and the things they've gone through. I've watched that on a very close basis, as my wife and her diabetes in the last few years. I've got a stepmother of 27 years who does not know who I am anymore because of her Alzheimer's. It hits home. It hits close. But never would I support, in any way, shape, or form, the destroying of one life for either one of them or anybody else. With that, I'll give the rest of my time to Senator Smith. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Johnson. Senator Dwite Pedersen, did you give your time to another senator?

SENATOR JOHNSON: I think it was Senator Smith that he gave the time to.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Smith. I could not understand you, Senator Pedersen. Thank you. Senator Smith, you have about two minutes.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Senator Pedersen, Mr. President, and members. I want to address again some information that mischaracterizes LB 602. LB 602 seeks to ban the artificial production of embryos, for whatever purpose. Primarily, it seeks to ban an embryo farm from occurring. Senator Johnson talked about human cell research. LB 602 does not ban human cell research. In fact, as I pointed out earlier, I believe that it would place more emphasis on the research that people agree on, people of very diverse viewpoints can agree on. And I also highlight that because of what Senator Beutler said as well. Senator Hartnett talked about Alzheimer's. And I have several articles here, from the Internet, from the New York