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FLOOR DEBATE

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we had the conclusion of a colloquy that began earlier, in which I'd asked a question about a set of hypotheticals in factual settings. Senator Foley was kind enough to respond. The one that I'd asked about that I've reflected upon since is whether or not an assault could be made on a fetus or an unborn child without an assault being committed on the woman. There was a hypothetical that Senator Foley gave, and upon reflection, it's clear to me that that, too, constitutes an assault. The theme or element that I find missing in LB 57 is the absolute separation of the interests of the mother from the fetus or the unborn child. This is a child that she wants to take to term, this is a pregnancy that she wants to carry, and the social loss, the personal loss is overwhelming when that pregnancy is interrupted and there's a death, or in this case, an assault that leads to serious bodily injury. I am unpersuaded by the response, upon reflection, in the hypothetical that was given. And in fact, I think it constitutes an assault. Giving a woman a drug without her knowledge would be an unwanted touching. It would be an assault. It would be a crime. You can't get to this hypothetical situation without a crime being done on a woman, to the best of my ability. And in all the hypotheticals that I've heard on the floor, including the one given, those...I think that's factually true. What I find objectionable in LB 57 is the absolute separation. And in fact, I think it's a pre-staging of turning the one interest against the interest of the other, to turn the interest of the unborn child against the interest of the mother. That's, I think, the end game, as I think Senator Foley talked about later...last year when we were talking about the rights of gay people as employees. His concern was the end game, where we were going to get to. And what I think LB 57 is, is a staging to get to the place where we can turn the interests of the unborn child against the interests of the woman. What I intend to do is this. I'm going to vote against cloture. I think it will be successful. We'll go to Select File. I'll offer an amendment on Select File which as narrowly as possible takes the interest that I'm interested in, which is a recognition of the interests of the mother, to make it a part of LB 57. I will offer it in good faith, and I will pledge to support the bill should the amendment be successful. I would support a cloture on the bill once that amendment was successful. It will not attempt to rewrite the bill from stem