

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Weihing.

SENATOR WEIHING: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, one of the basic things that we're really talking about is compassion, compassion for the fertilized ovary, the child that will be developed within the female, compassion that we talk about that is based a great deal on our religious concepts. We say that we have secular laws and we have separated church and state. In reality, we haven't. Our laws are based a great, great deal on our religious beliefs. We talked about when does life start. We don't know when life starts because you know that sperm that fertilizes the egg is alive, that egg is alive, life is continuous. The Bible has a story as to the beginning of life on earth. Scientists have a story as to when life begins on earth and life is here at all times. Life does not arise de novo, just poof, it takes the fertilization to take place. And with human beings it always takes the male and the female to fill out the full complement of chromosomes, the double set of chromosomes, then the individual develops. Now we come into play as to whether or not we can take that new person, and that's what it will be if it goes normal, when can we take it, or should we take it? Then we come into the area of compassion. And Senator Smith spoke very, very straightforward this morning when she spoke of her bill and the compassion for the children because when that life that we have comes into the outer world it is a child and really we have never spent the time that we have here on this particular issue right this moment on how we can take care of these children once they are on earth. One of the things that has been happening, in my lifetime, is that there has been an increasing number of babies out of wedlock. Where is religion in bringing about the stability and having it as it is felt by our religious groups so that we wouldn't really have to be dealing with this issue? How many of you've actually seen children in groups that are having to beg? I have. I have been in those parts of the world where I have seen those, where the tendons on the back of their legs have been cut. I want you to think about this, where the back of their legs down here, right there by the ankle have been cut by the parent so that they have a greater begging capacity. Where is the compassion then? It was simply a matter of keeping alive. We must look at the scope, the scope of life. We live in a very fine...

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.