

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

February 2, 1999 LB 268

known that I don't believe in magic, mysticism, werewolves, Tiki gods, demons, things that go bump in the night, if they're "ghosties", goblins, and "beasties", and "long-leggity" demons and all the rest of it. But when it comes to children I have a deep concern, because there have been instances in other parts of the country where parents, who may genuinely have held these religious beliefs, have allowed their children to die, in some cases, agonizing, excruciating deaths when medical treatment could have spared the child, not only the pain, but the child's life. I believe in a woman's right to choose whether or not to carry a pregnancy to term. And I've been called a baby-killer, one who would have fostered a holocaust, had I had the opportunity, and all such things as that. But those characterizations have no impact on me, because I review that issue from the standpoint of the woman who is making the choice. Others review it because of their religious convictions from the standpoint of the fetus. And I have always said that those who argue so loud, long and vociferously about concern for fetuses, generally lose that concern once the fetus has reached full term and comes into the world as a person in being. I don't see how anybody who stands on this floor repeatedly and fulminates against people such as myself, and will argue in the most fervent terms about protecting a fetus, will say that once the child is a person in being, according to any definition, we now don't care, and that child can be handled any way that a person called a parent chooses to handle that child. There are some so-called childhood diseases that are making a return in this country. There are impoverished parts of this country where no children get the immunization that they should have. Bacteria and viruses have a way of disregarding social...

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN PRESIDING

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...lines, geographic borders, whether it be a state, county, or city, and will proliferate and catch a ride with an individual who may travel out of that impoverished area into an area which is not impoverished. And that little bacterium or virus will see a host that it prefers to the one it's enjoying, and will pass to another host, and do the same damage there. In other words, some of these diseases are