

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
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SENATOR PREISTER: Thank you, Honorable President, friends all. I rise in support of bringing the bill to the floor. I do so, not framing the debate on whether or not we can do research or whether or not we can't do research. I think the research can be done without the use of elective fetal tissue. I believe that the university has taken some initiative to contact other area hospitals so that they would be able to secure tissue that comes from ectopic pregnancies and from spontaneous abortions. I appreciate that the university is taking those measures because that would be another source of tissue. I think that my position is summed up pretty well in the letter that was signed by over 80 doctors that was an ad in the World-Herald. They stated that we, the undersigned, support medical research to find cures for Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and other debilitating neurological diseases. However, such medical progress should never come with the cost of exploited and degraded human life. Those same doctors, as well as other signatories on that ad and that letter, go on to state that there are other options that are available. So my position is I think we do need to do the research, that's not a question for me. But I think that we can be able to do the research and do it in other means and with other tissue. I won't go through the list of information in here beyond that. I think also in a couple of the handouts that we have been given today and the articles in the paper, talking about the bioethics board that has just been selected and 23 members to serve on that, is likewise a good thing. I believe that probably the researchers and the technology has perhaps stepped far beyond the ethics of that research and that technology. If I were to put myself in the position of a researcher being on cutting edge technology, being able to look at cures, being able to understand the complexity of the human cell and the human dynamic and be able to somehow create things out of that understanding that help minimize suffering in life, that would be very exciting and it would be something that would be certainly intriguing and motivating. But along with that needs to come the ethics of how and when and what is done with that. And so I salute the university for their compilation of this bioethics committee. I think it's long overdue, it should have been done sooner, and this can help to balance how we go about what I think is essential that we do. I think that doing it can be done. Doing the research, for me, is not the question. We do need to look at how we alleviate suffering in