

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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LB 1405

SENATOR MATZKE: ...me in conscience to oppose any bill that I know in my heart is unconstitutional. This is the wrong bill in the wrong place. It should not be voted on. I strongly support Senator Chambers' motion to bracket this bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Robak.

SENATOR ROBAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members of the body, this is obviously not entirely meant for the body alone, because better people than I have spoken to the unconstitutionality. I'm not an attorney, I'm simply a common politician representing my district, the people of the 22nd District. And I want...this is for them, this is for my constituents and my friends throughout the state who contacted me during this past year. The headlines February 20th, I think this is the World-Herald. "Senator's Switch Clouds Fate of Fetal Tissue Bill", and then again another headline, "Abortion Foe, Senator Robak Heeds NU Ties". Julie Schmit-Albin, president of the Nebraska Right To Life, said: 'Senator Robak's opposition tarnishes her record on abortion. I think it's unfortunate her daughter's position at the university is forcing her to turn her back on her long pro-life record.' And she goes on to say that I am voting the way I am because of my daughter's position at the University of Nebraska. It's ironic that my daughter worked for Governor Nelson for eight years, and never once was my position on any bill ever questioned, until...until now, until now. And now we're talking about something called abortion, which is not the issue, the issue is research, but only now it makes headlines that I am doing this because of my daughter, and she has never influenced me in her life. I hope that I influenced her to become what she is, but the reversal, I don't know. And then another, Monday, March 13th, "Robak's Reversal Sets Off Rumor Mills". To top it all and the grand finale of this is the Cunningham's report on me that says, the headline "Senator Jennie Robak Caves Into Pressure". I would like everybody to know, my constituents, my friends out in the state of Nebraska that I did not cave into the pressure from the university. The only pressure I got was from the pro-life activists, who are standing out in the back, with their lies. To make the issue quite clear, I'd just like to say again for my constituents and my friends throughout the state, I did sign onto the bill. I