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time referred to the Judiciary Committee. Bill was advanced to General File.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Foley, you're recognized to open on LB 294.

SENATOR FOLEY: Thank you very much, Mr. President, members of the body. LB 294 now before us is the civil law counterpart to the Homicide of the Unborn Child Act, overwhelmingly passed by the Legislature last year. As you will recall, last year's bill established criminal penalties for the homicide of an unborn child. That bill, based in considerable measure on language developed through consultations with Senator Brashear, received widespread bipartisan support in the Legislature, earning at least 40 votes on each of 3 rounds of debate. That bill became law in the spirit of Nebraska's policy enshrined in our statutes of, and I quote, providing protection for the life of the unborn whenever possible. Today's bill offers another opportunity to protect the unborn under the context of civil law in a manner that is consonant with decisions of the United States Supreme Court. The bill amends our state's current wrongful death statute, thus, enabling victims to sue for damages associated with the killing of an unborn child. Like the Homicide of the Unborn Child Act of last year, LB 294 before us today is not groundbreaking proposal. Thirty-eight states and the District of Columbia currently have laws allowing wrongful death actions to be brought on behalf of unborn children. LB 294 only deals with the wrongful acts of third parties. The bill makes clear that no action can be brought against the mother of the unborn child, or against the doctor who was given consent to perform an abortion. Actionable cases may only be brought against third parties whose wrongful acts were committed against the will of the mother. The practical effect of this bill is to simply unlock the courthouse door and allow victims to enter court and attempt to win a judgment against the person who killed their unborn child. Under our laws today, if I destroy your automobile, the courthouse door is open and you can sue me and win a financial judgment against me for your property loss. Similarly, if I kill your dog, our courts allow you to sue me and win a financial judgment against me for your loss. But if you kill my unborn child, even on the day before its birth, I