

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

March 12, 2003      LB 294

of the law which, incidentally, have been on our statute books for 130 years. The wrongful death statute goes back a long way.

SENATOR BOURNE:      And I'm not aware of any...any abuses or misuses of this statute in other civil matters. All I'm concerned about is, again, the drunk driving instance I absolutely agree with; the assault I absolutely agree with there should be a civil remedy. But I'm afraid that there might be some unintentional consequences with this, and I'm just trying to explore whether or not that's an accurate concern...

SENATOR FOLEY:      Well,...

SENATOR BOURNE:      ...or legitimate.

SENATOR FOLEY:      ...I think what you're getting at, Senator Bourne...and again, I don't object to these questions. I think they're very fair questions. I think what you're getting at is the danger of a frivolous lawsuit.

SENATOR BOURNE:      Exactly.

SENATOR FOLEY:      And we have remedies in the law today that protect all of us against those kinds of legal actions against us, that someone might take against us. And if someone brings a frivolous case into court and obviously don't have the facts behind them and the judge rules that it's a frivolous case, you can, in turn, go after that person with a countersuit and recover whatever damages you may have suffered as a result of the original suit.

SENATOR BOURNE:      Fair enough. Senator Foley, thank you very much. I intend to support your bill. Thank you.

SENATOR FOLEY:      Thank you very much, Senator Bourne.

SENATOR CUDABACK:      Thank you. Thank you, Senator Bourne. Senator Foley, there are no other lights on wishing to speak at this time. Do you wish to close on advancement of LB 294?

SENATOR FOLEY:      I'm going to honor my promise to Senator