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countless patient advocate groups and medical researchers. A ban on therapeutic cloning would end responsible, scientifically legitimate research for cures that could eliminate pain, suffering, and early death for millions. Depriving people of hope for cures is especially unjust when basic medical treatments are also being denied because of skyrocketing medical costs, diminished private insurance and Medicaid coverage, severe state budget deficits, a growing number of uninsured and potential Medicare insolvency. These factors have a disproportionate impact on children who suffer from juvenile diabetes, one of the costliest diseases. For example, President Bush recently proposed Medicaid reforms that would permit state administrators to end coverage for diabetes supplies and services. And you, if you remember, those of you who were here about four years ago, passed a bill which mandated insurance coverage for those very necessary supplies and services, including dietary services. So some of this that I have just given you has come from a group called Nebraskans for Research. And I want to give them credit for some of my remarks. But I believe that this is a very serious issue, that there are very serious ramifications. And I hope that we will have a very serious and studied debate about this issue, because I believe that it would be taking Nebraska in the wrong direction to do the full amount of what this bill calls for. With that, Mr. President, I would return the rest of my time to the Chair. Thank you.

SPEAKER BROMM PRESIDING

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Schimek. Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. I rise in opposition to this amendment. It takes away drastically from the bill. I think it would leave the state, if we would only adopt the policy of banning reproductive cloning and allowing therapeutic cloning, it would be problematic. A very simple term would be, it's not very possible to be just a little bit pregnant. And that's kind of what this amendment gets at. And that's why I rise in opposition to it. But let me point out more specifically. And I'll quote several researchers out of the Journal of the American Medical Association, in December