

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

May 5, 2003

LB 602

SENATOR JOHNSON: Okay. How much time do I have left, sir?

SENATOR RAIKES: Three seconds.

SENATOR JOHNSON: (Laugh) All right. I'll wait till the next time. Thank you.

SENATOR RAIKES: Time. Thank you, Senator Johnson. Senator Schimek, you're recognized to speak. Senator Schimek waives. Senator Thompson, you're recognized to speak.

SENATOR THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. We could probably move this bill if we could get to the issue of human cloning. I don't think there are going to be lots of concerns about that. But we're getting into an area that, as you can tell, as we've just started on it, it's extremely technical and I don't know that any of us should be judging the potential of research and the potential for what this research can do when we're talking about this issue, because it has the potential to cure diseases, to help people. One of the articles that I read that I thought was very interesting, and I have to hunt it up here, but it was Orrin Hatch speaking on this issue and he said: I come to this issue with a strong pro-life, pro-family record, but I also strongly believe that a critical part of being pro-life is to support measures that help the living. And that's what we're talking about and what the future of that will be in Nebraska. Some of the questions that were just brought up I did ask and...the Judiciary counsel because I was having a hard time understanding the phrasing of this bill, and I hadn't read the Senate bill, but I was concerned that a person couldn't treat themselves using this therapy. Now, you know, maybe that's...after a few days they came back and said they thought that you could return to the state if you got this treatment somewhere else and you wouldn't be in jeopardy of anything with the bill. But I think we're getting into a real slippery slope of issues here. I got a letter from a woman I've known for 30 years and I didn't realize that one of her children had juvenile diabetes, and this is what she said: Our son was diagnosed with juvenile diabetes the week he turned eight. He is not 30 years old. He takes four shots of insulin a day, and does four to eight blood tests