

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

May 5, 2003

LB 602

reproductive cloning...

SPEAKER BROMM: Time.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...to start with.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Beutler and Senator Smith.
Senator Johnson.

SENATOR JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, a couple of things here. One is this, is that I thought that a couple of speakers after me gave the reason or supported my argument in why are we here, because we heard that there were no clinical trials. And I might say if that's the case what's the hurry when we have all these other pressing issues? We also had a quote from Representative Weldon from Florida, who is a physician of some 15 years and whose opinion carries some weight on Capitol Hill, and he states there has not been a single study, not even in animals, indicating that technology could use to treat the disease. What's the hurry? But as long as we're talking about Congressman Weldon, here's something that somebody else thinks about that. Stack up Congressman Weldon's statements about the science and compare them with the statements of some of the great opportunities that there are, which includes 40 Nobel laureates, the National Academy of Sciences, and other such organizations. You don't have to be...excuse me, you'd have to be naive to think that there's no medical potential for this technology, states in the science and nature medicine in the Journal of Clinical Investigation. You have to have your head in the sand. A couple of other things. Senator Chambers, I'm beginning to think that I've been around you too long. I came up with a list similar to yours, because what we're talking about here today is not medical research. What we're talking about is banning medical research because of one's religious ideas. I have very strong religious ideas and, personally, I don't think that another person's ideas on religion should keep me from doing what I think is right in my relationship to the good Lord. One of the questions, and I would ask Senator Smith about this, is this, and I want to get back to this one thing. We've talked about if the research produced results, say, to cure diabetes somewhere else, would you be...would you use this research if