

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

May 5, 2003

LB 602

Dolly the sheep. There is wide opposition to using the technique in people. Therapeutic clone is seen by some as...

SPEAKER BROMM: One minute.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: ...fraught with hazard because it could so easily lead to reproductive cloning, to the making of a baby, instead of the generation of laboratory cell lines. Dr. Scholer said that oocytes made by his method could be genetically engineered so as to be inviable in the womb but still useful for the therapeutic cloning, a procedure that might allay some objections to therapeutic cloning. Opponents of stem cell research support legislation passed by the House and pending in the Senate that would outlaw both types of cloning. Dr. Arthur Caplan, an ethicist at Penn. who has advised Dr. Scholer, said the new research showed such bans were premature because stem cell technology was moving so fast. It's as if they were trying to regulate the aviation industry with only the Wright Brothers' plane in front of them, Dr. Caplan said. Besides the unaccustomed idea of generating human oocytes in the...

SPEAKER BROMM: Time.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: ...laboratory...I'll turn my light on. Thank you.

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

SENATOR LOUDEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members of the body. Although I had signed onto this bill early on, when it was first introduced and it seemed like a good idea at the time, what we want to remember is that this bill was written six months ago probably, and it was nearly six months ago that the testimony and it was first read was taken care of. And, of course, in areas like this, research is going at a fast rate and since then there's been quite a lot of new techniques been done. I think Senator Erdman alluded to some of them that nowadays are using cells from the same people to work on some of this and to help control some of these diseases and repair some damage, so I think we have to be very careful on what we're doing for legislation. First of all, we could be talking about