

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

May 5, 2003

LB 602

something like this is of no consequence to me. There was a so-called late term abortion bill that congressmen all jumped on the bandwagon for, and everybody on the floor except me. And I was right, and the court struck it down. They made it a criminal statute, and my arguments were used by the district court, the appellate court, and the U.S. Supreme Court. And I tried to explain to my colleagues why what they were doing was wrong. Overly broad, and vague. In this bill, Senator Thompson was just beginning to engage Senator Brashear in the discussion. On page 2, in line 6, "Derive any product from." "Derive" is not what I would look at, but "product." Senator Brashear acknowledged it was not defined. No crime can be proved against a person unless every element of the crime is proved beyond a reasonable doubt. And when you have a word such as "product," which is one of the elements of this crime, and it is not defined, and nobody knows what it means, you do not know what conduct is prohibited and what conduct is allowed. It is overbroad. It is vague. This would be unconstitutional, because it's a criminal statute. A criminal statute is never extended by interpretation. A criminal statute is narrowly defined. A court will never allow it to mean any more than what the plain meaning of the words is, the plain meaning. What does "product" mean, product from human cloning? What does that mean? Nobody on this floor knows. If you gave everybody a piece of paper in here and said, you must write down something as to what that word means, and would look, the number of different answers would show you that reasonable people can differ. And that constitutes vagueness, overbreadth, in a criminal statute. You might be able to get 33 votes. They were able to do that, if it would have been necessary, on the so-called late term abortion bill. And they had the same people lurking out in the halls, giving them instructions. And they were told on that bill to talk about what they're saying in Congress. They have idiots in Congress like they have idiots in state legislatures.

SPEAKER BROMM: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And they're all repeating what was told to them. If you have 1,000 parrots, and the first one says, Polly wants a cracker, then 1,000 other parrots, like a multiplied