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LB 602

SPEAKER BROMM: Senator Brown, would you yield, please?

SENATOR BROWN: Yes.

SENATOR THOMPSON: Senator Brown, I know you've worked a lot in the area of genetics and legislation that has to do with that since we've been in the Legislature. And in some of the discussions we've had off the mike, and also in listening to what you said on the mike, I'm concerned that, from what you've been saying, that this goes beyond what we're probably thinking of in terms of cloning, and would prohibit some other types of genetic work that already is fairly commonplace in the state. Is that correct?

SENATOR BROWN: Well, I'm not sure that it's commonplace, but it's certainly more promising than anything that we've been talking about so far. The...my reading of Section 3, number (3), where we talk about introducing nuclear material from one or more human somatic cells into a fertilized or unfertilized oocyte...if you had a condition that was a genetic condition, that you knew would be passed along to your child, and there was the ability to introduce genetic material to cure that condition, and it was guaranteed that the child would have it, you could have in vitro fertilization, so that it would be a fertilized egg, a product of you and your husband, and then genetic material could be introduced into that egg prior to it beginning to replicate, that could cure a deletion of a chromosome that would result in some sort of terrible health problem for the child. My reading of this language is, that kind of genetic therapy would be precluded, because it would be the introduction of genetic material. And nucle...most of the genetic material in a cell...actually, virtually all of it, from the way we're talking about it...is contained in the nucleus. So it would be the introduction of nuclear material from another somatic cell into a fertilized oocyte. So genetic therapy I think would be precluded by the language of this bill.

SENATOR THOMPSON: Thank you, Senator Brown. I'd like to ask Senator Smith a question.

SPEAKER BROMM: Senator Smith, would you yield, please?