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FLOOR DEBATE

May 5, 2003

LB 602

question?

SENATOR JOHNSON: Yes, s.r.

SENATOR SMITH: Senator Johnson, if you had a patient with a disease that has been mentioned today, would you tell them that they would have hope if we did not pass this bill?

SENATOR JOHNSON: Yes. You are taking the hope of this type of research away from them. Other kinds of research, such as what Senator Erdman spoke to, have some promise. This also has promise. There are 40 Nobel laureates that have said this has the most hope.

SENATOR SMITH: Okay. You...Nobel what? Nobel prize winners?

SENATOR JOHNSON: Yes.

SENATOR SMITH: Okay. I...let me...

SENATOR JOHNSON: World-class research people.

SENATOR SMITH: Understood. Would you...I mean, you're saying they would have hope, they would grasp to this issue as a means of survival, and you would encourage that?

SENATOR JOHNSON: What else do they have? Do they have prayer? I believe in prayer. But then, when I open my eyes, I sit down and go to work to find the problem to cure their disease.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you. I don't want to continue a lot longer here. But I hope that I've focused on the issue at hand here. And I don't want to fabricate anything. I don't want to tell people that they have hope when there's no clinical evidence. And I can't go home to my constituency and say that the Legislature ought not have any say whatsoever in the acquisition of knowledge. We heard about knowledge earlier, and colleagues' unwillingness to impede the acquisition of knowledge at all. And I must say that I get a little frustrated when I hear about a court case that has some evidence that was collected illegally perhaps, and it's thrown out even though we