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FLOOR DEBATE

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floor right now. President Bush's Bioethics Commission speaks clearly in opposition to cloning. And if you've got something that's from that commission that supports human cloning and says so clearly, I challenge you to put it on the floor. You've not done that. Senator Redfield made an excellent point, and I'm going to repeat it. Even President Clinton's commission on ethical issues in human stem cell research speaks against human cloning. They said federal agencies should not fund research involving the derivation of use of human embryonic stem cells from embryos made from somatic cell nuclear transfer, cloning, in other words. You've got the President Clinton commission opposing this, you've got President Bush's commission opposing this consistently. We've all received, I think, a letter from...signed by about 120 doctors across the state of Nebraska. And I won't read that entire letter, but there is one paragraph I want to put into the public record. The letter is signed principally by Dr. Jude Cook, but signed on by about 120 other physicians. The letter reads, just in part: The Hippocratic oath states that the first priority for medical science is to do no harm. The Nuremberg Code of 1945 states that no medical experiments should be performed when it is known that human death or disability is likely to occur. Both of these principles are based on the fundamental principle of medical nonmaleficence and contradict any benefit from human cloning. Human cloning, in essence, is a destructive means to an indefinite end. End quote. In recent years, we've been debating with great vigor the whole question of fetal tissue research at our university. That again is a different ethical question. That question is simply related to whether or not our university should be in complicity with the abortion industry, whether or not they should be receiving tissue directly derived from abortions. This...the bill before us today addresses the next step, which is the direct creation and then destruction of human life. I suggest to you that that's far beyond where we were in this debate just a year ago. Needless to say, I'm opposed to the recommit motion. I support LB 602. I encourage you to advance the bill. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Foley. Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. President and members. Senator