

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

January 22, 2004 LB 602

Legislature. Dr. Johnson, I do remember when the polio outbreaks were rampant in this country. I remember standing in a line, waiting for our newest arrival that Nancy and I had, to get his polio vaccine, and there were lines and lines of people scrambling to get those vaccines. The in vitro process has only been in place for about 15 years, and I wouldn't have a beautiful granddaughter if it wasn't for that, and that came from research. I am not qualified to stand on this floor and talk about medical practices, but there is someone in this body who is, and I'll give the remainder of my time to Senator Dr. Johnson.

SPEAKER BROMM: Senator Johnson, you have about four minutes.

SENATOR JOHNSON: Thank you, Senator Janssen and Mr. President. We need to cover a few things, and I'm going to try and get these in. First of all, Senator Foley, you challenged me to come up with the answer of what the President's Council did and did not do. Let me read this to you one more time. The President's Council on Bioethics released its first report on stem cell research at a meeting here yesterday, January 15, 2004. But, unlike one of its noteworthy predecessors, your...what you are reading from last summer, the new report, "Monitoring Stem Cell Research," makes no recommendations and took no particular ethical or policy position. Chairman Kass said the council declined to make specific recommendations because stem cell research field is young and, quote, the President's policy and its implementation are even younger. The...what the letter said was what it didn't say. It didn't recommend what you're saying. That was one of the directions they could go. They said, no, let's leave the field open. Want to cover one other thing and, Senator Redfield, as well as Senator Erdman and Senator Smith, you talked about embryo farms and it takes 85 million women producing I forget how many umpteen million that we have. That's impractical. The research has already demonstrated that. There is no question about that. There are two ways that you go about finding cures for this type of disease. One is that, yes, the potential would be there that you could develop islets of Langerhans' cells, that's the ones that make insulin in the pancreas, and inject those into the person. That is one way. But the way that most everybody