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January 22, 2004 LB 602

SENATOR STUHR: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. I stand in opposition to the motion to reconsider (sic) back to committee. I also want to say that I do appreciate the discussion that we have had on this issue. I am in support of LB 602. First, I believe that human cloning represents a violation of human dignity. I am also opposed to therapeutic cloning, which requires, and we've had this discussion this morning, it does require the destruction of embryos for medical research. When cloning is used to produce human embryos for medical research, a new human being is created slowly to be destroyed by his or her cells...for his or her cells, and I don't believe this is right. I don't believe that the end justifies the means. I, too, received this letter from over 130 physicians across the state of Nebraska, and I would like to share another statement. Senator Foley shared one statement. They believe that therapeutic cloning devalues human rights and dignity, placing high-priced genetic plans over the inherent right for a unique personhood. As a result, human beings are reduced to mere products. Man himself becomes simply another man-made object, and I think that's a very important statement. They do not believe that humans should be compromised for the sake of possible scientific advancement. I believe that a willingness to destroy human life to preserve the health of another violates the most basic principle of life in a civilized society. Again, I appreciate the discussion we have had this morning. I believe it's important when we are making such a difficult policy. And I give the rest of my time to Senator Smith. Thank you.

SPEAKER BROMM: Senator Smith, you have 2 minutes and 40 seconds.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Senator Stuhr. I want to touch on the fact that this Legislature cannot bind another Legislature, as the senior member pointed out earlier this week. And Senator Johnson made reference to how permanent LB 602 would be. State statutes can change. If the political will of this body changes by the end of the session, this could change, should it advance. The political will could change if this would advance to Select File, it could change from Select File to Final Reading, or from Final Reading, depending on what