

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

January 22, 2004 LB 602

the Governor does or the votes to override. But even if it becomes law, this session, or at the end of the session, or 90 days following the end of session, next year it could be revisited. We could have a special session to undo it. A state constitutional amendment can even be undone with the will of the people. I'm not advocating that this needs to go in the constitution, but the fact is we are not...or the next Legislature is not bound by the actions we take here as it relates to statutory authority, so I want to point that out and certainly urge your advancement of LB 602. Thank you.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Smith. Senator Thompson.

SENATOR THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. I support Senator Chambers' motion to recommit to committee. I really think, as we've discussed this now this morning, there's a clear consensus on the ban for reproductive cloning, and I also think that there are many problems with the bill that need to be reviewed and looked at. And the debate has been pretty much centering on both issues of reproductive cloning and medical research. But there's a third part to this bill that I think needs careful consideration by this body, and that is the section in the original bill that makes the use or distribution of these cures a Class IV felony and a penalty in the original bill of not less than \$1 million. And in the committee amendment, Senator Smith said they've changed their minds on this and will delete one section of this, but I'm going to read it: No person shall knowingly perform human cloning, derive any product from human cloning, or deliver or receive an embryo produced by or from human cloning. And Senator Smith has said that he has filed an amendment to take out the derived any product from human cloning, and the reason that is important, and that is if you do go to a cloture vote and you get back to the green copy, a person from Nebraska could not receive the cures that we're on the threshold of for all of these diseases that we have a potential cure for. Now, you and I may disagree about the definitions of these cells and other things, but it's not our place to stand in front of the medical community and tell them they cannot cure an illness. That is not our place. It violates their oath that they take when they become doctors to provide a cure for illness. If someone is sick, if someone