

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

January 22, 2004 LB 602

common sense, or even saying that an argument is not valid because it's based on moral values or religion or something like that. I think everything we believe, all the convictions we have are all based on something and I think we all have a right to stand up and say what we really believe, and whether it's based...whatever it's based on doesn't make any difference. And we different...base our beliefs on different things. So I think we have a valid argument. I think we've had some great discussion here, and when I look through all this and hear the debate, I still cannot believe that the end justifies the means, and I will not vote for the recommitment to committee. I will vote to support the bill, LB 602. Thank you.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Kremer. Senator Friend.

SENATOR FRIEND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members of the Legislature, just a couple of quick points wanted to follow up on. It seems like it's been days since I spoke this morning, but good...very good debate and very informative. I get the impression there are a couple of things that have happened and I get sort of a feeling that a couple of these things I needed to speak to. One of them is that...the scientific aspect of what we're dealing with, that we may not, the insinuation could be there, that we may not be qualified to speak to this issue. Well, everybody in this body was at one time an embryo. We were all unborn. We were all young children. We were all young adults. Now I'm old or getting older. We are very qualified to speak to this issue. Senator Maxwell pointed out this is our job to speak to this issue. I've studied science to the degree of, what, a year in college, if I was lucky. Has nothing to do with it. This is a moral issue. The second point is, moral, medical, they're incontrovertibly linked. These are linked. We help the medical society make moral decisions. Senator Beutler was correct, we're pretty pragmatic people. But just as I had mentioned earlier, 130 years ago decisions were made, wars were fought, policymakers drove us to the moral conclusions that we've come to today. I just feel like the final thing that I'd like to say is one...before I...before I point out the Dr. Walter Robinson quote that I mentioned earlier, is that we can deal with this issue. Senator Maxwell was right. I think we've dealt with it in a good way today. I brought this up