

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
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FLOOR DEBATE

January 12, 2006    LB 57

provide full legal protection for the child the woman is carrying. The Nebraska Legislature, in bills that I've voted for, has created felony penalties for animal cruelty. In recent years, the Legislature unanimously passed legislation that made acts of cruel mistreatment of an animal a felony. If state laws can recognize and punish nonfatal violence impacted upon animals, then surely we can offer similar legal protection to unborn children. LB 57 is the logical extension of our successful work of four years ago on fetal homicide. The language of the bill only asks that we show a modicum of respect for the life and dignity of the unborn. I ask for your favorable consideration of LB 57. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Foley. You've heard the opening on LB 57. Mr. Clerk, please.

CLERK: Mr. President, the first amendment I have to the bill, Senator Chambers. Senator, I have FA197. (Legislative Journal page 1312, First Session, 2005.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Chambers, you're recognized to open on your amendment to LB 57.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, this is a bill that I think is preposterous. It is unenforceable, it is simpleminded, and it's a part of that Catholic male agenda of looking at the relationship between a pregnant woman and a fetus, and making the woman less and less significant and the fetus more and more significant. You can kill the mama; keep the fetus, because if the fetus comes to full term, that fetus can be brainwashed. That's why they don't want a provision in these antiabortion bills that they bring that would protect the health of the woman. She's unimportant. She's insignificant. The bill that Senator Foley brought last year that dealt with whatever it did, was one which I thought should have put the woman first. And if she's pregnant, it becomes an aggravation of the offense against the woman. The fetus has no independent existence. I don't care what their religion says. They can say until they're blue in the face that at conception you have a human being, and I say, poppycock. And the church didn't even teach that all the time. And for Senator