

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

January 13, 2006 LB 57

this works. And let me call your attention, first of all, to section (1) of Section 4, which is the intentional or knowing causing. In subsequent sections, the two subsequent sections talk about recklessly causing; this section talks about intentionally causing. With respect to the intentionality here, is it the intent to commit an act upon the mother, or the intent to commit an act upon the unborn child?

SENATOR FOLEY: Senator, you're schooled in the law, and you're familiar with the concept of transferred intent. And let me give you a layman's understanding of what transferred intent is. If I point a loaded gun at someone and pull the trigger, and intend to kill or harm someone, but my target ducks and the bullet sails off and hits someone who I didn't even know was there, behind the bush, I can be prosecuted for what I did to the man behind the bush, even though I never intended to harm him--transferred intent.

SENATOR BEUTLER: But that is an act of recklessness towards that third person, isn't it, not an attack...not really an act of intentionality?

SENATOR FOLEY: No, because I had intent, I had intent to do damage or kill a particular person, and the intent is transferred to the ultimate victim.

SENATOR BEUTLER: If you do not know of the pregnancy and there's no way of your knowing, how do you know that your intentional act may cause harm to another?

SENATOR FOLEY: If I understand your question, Senator, I think you're raising the hypothetical of the man who intends to harm a woman, but does not know that she's pregnant, and he commits an act against the woman, she sustains an injury, presumably, and an unborn child that he is not aware of also sustains an injury. He didn't have knowledge of the pregnancy, but he could still be prosecuted if he inflicts serious bodily injury against the child.

SENATOR BEUTLER: So even though he doesn't know of the pregnancy, and therefore cannot have that intent, you're going