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

January 17, 2006 LB 57

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ... sitting down. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. (Visitors introduced.) On with discussion. Senator Foley.

SENATOR FOLEY: Thank you, Mr. President. Senator Landis, want to pick up on our discussion earlier. As you know, on page 3 of the bill, at the top of the page, we've got the language that excludes the mother from prosecution under this new criminal statute that I'm proposing. To...I...Senator Landis, there is no instance, none that I know of or can think of, that would allow a prosecutor to go after the mother of the The mother is specifically excluded from any act--and the language says that -- any act or conduct. So the mother is exempt from any prosecution in these cases. Now you raise a very important public policy question, which Senator Beutler also wants to get to, I think maybe on Select File, and that is, what do you do when you've got a woman who's pregnant, and she is deliberately and knowingly taking drugs and alcohol and so forth, with knowledge that it will damage her child? What do you do in those cases? That's a difficult public policy question. I have never proposed a criminal solution to that public policy question. So there is no conduct or act that a mother could engage in that would subject her to criminal prosecution under what I'm proposing. Now you also raised the issue of, could not a person be criminally prosecuted for maliciously forcing a woman to ingest a pharmaceutical that she does not want to ingest? And I would think that there would have to be some damage to the woman before you could prosecute someone for doing that. I'm not saying it's right, but I think you'd have to show damage to the woman before you could prosecute someone for that act. Now maybe I'm wrong, maybe there's something in the law that I'm not aware of, but that would be my take on that question. I think I'll just leave it at that, Senator Landis. You can pick it up on your own time, if you care to. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Foley. Senator Chambers, and this will be your third time, as you know.