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LB 57, 862, 1244

and he said, you know, she never came back; I don't know where she is. But she got scared off and she went to another doctor, I guess, and I think we can probably presume that she delivered that child and Nebraska had another crack baby, and what a horrible tragedy that is. So, Senator Beutler, thank you for raising this question. What do we do in these cases? What do we do? I don't have the answer. I wish I did, I really do. And if I had the answer, I'd offer legislation, and I'd say the same to Senator Beutler. You've had every opportunity to offer legislation on this question, and I suspect you haven't because you recognize, as I do, how difficult this is. And I don't criticize you for not having offered legislation for a full public hearing so this could be aired properly, with all parties being allowed to come in and offer their guidance and suggestions. Senator Howard has offered us a couple of bills this year, and I think she's...I'm more inclined to go in the direction that Senator Howard wants to take us, far more inclined to go in that direction. She'd offered us LB 1244, and I see that her light is on and I hope that she'll speak to it. I think she will...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR FOLEY: ...tell us more about what her approach is, but as I understand it, she wants to do a couple of things. First of all, she wants to get the Department of Health and Human Services off the dime and to be getting...implementing some programs that will give some guidance and some counseling and directive to medical workers about how to deal with these situations, about how to counsel these pregnant women into appropriate treatment programs so they can be assisted. I think she's also got a bill, LB 862, which tries to find some money to fund some of these programs. I'm far more inclined to go in that direction. There does need to be some kind of intervention here to give assistance and counsel and, you know, real world assistance to women who are in these difficult situations. But to tell that woman, as soon as you deliver that baby, if it's a crack baby, it's 20 years in the slammer...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time, Senator Foley. Thank you, Senator Foley. Senator Schimek, followed by Senator Beutler and others.