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

March 9, 2006 LB 57

Senator Beutler's view of this, that they probably could be plead down, but it bothers me that we'd just leave it on the books that way and that that could happen. And I think there are judges on the bench who have very strong biases on this issue, and so I'd be very concerned to leave this as something that could happen to a juvenile. We've worked hard, as a Legislature, to improve the services for juveniles, and the girls who come in the system often are pregnant and they often have other issues, significant substance abuse issues, mental health issues, all that are interrelated. If they are sent to the YRTC in Geneva, and many of them are pregnant when they are there, they have physicians to treat them; they have, thanks to the Legislature and a bill we passed a few years ago, have...now have a medical facility that is more appropriate in terms of its ability to help treat children who come there and also to deal with their pregnancies. We've also increased gender-specific treatment. We used to have a lot of juvenile offender treatment that was more male based, and we've learned that treatment works better when...especially for girls, when it has a relational And so at the YRTC-Jeneva, we've implemented gender-appropriate treatment. I would worry that any girl convicted under this law, if this amendment passes, wouldn't have the benefit of going to the YRTC in Geneva because they would be out of the juvenile justice system, and the only location for them would be the ...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR THOMPSON: ...adult system. I have an amendment that I filed to limit this discussion to adult women, because I think that's more appropriate, but I think it's one of the things we need to think about, is if we don't amend it and Senator Chambers changes it to a woman, and I, you know, I never...from "a pregnant woman" from "a mother of an unborn child," and I don't know if that's...I've never had that question asked before in statute. Maybe I should ask you that, Senator Chambers. By saying "a pregnant woman," does that eliminate juveniles from this amendment?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: My intent was, by using the term "woman," to refer to an adult, but I don't know whether it would be