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LB 57

Under the law, third parties really refers to a situation where there are two parties involved in some agreement and then the third party is outside of that. Well, maybe the husband should be one of these first or second parties and not a third party. After all, the husband is as involved with the unborn child as the wife. Maybe if the husband is going to suffer all of the consequences of a child who is underdeveloped, maybe he should be exempted from the law also, as is the mother. Why not, if that's our reason for distinguishing? But that's not a right reason for distinguishing. It is the harm that we need to focus on. And if the day comes when we know how to deal with all of this without declaring something criminal, then fine. We do that for everybody;...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time, Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...we deal with everything equally.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. (Visitors introduced.) On with discussion of the Chambers amendment to the Beutler amendment to LB 57. Senator Howard.

SENATOR HOWARD: Thank you, Senator Cudaback and members of the body. I certainly respect what Senator Beutler has been saying and I want to make it clear that from my stand, that I am not in support of prosecution, per se, but he's opened the door to a discussion that needs to be had. Anger is a common factor when you look at damage to a child. The anger behind the concept of prosecution is not new and certainly not surprising. I can understand the motivation for that and I have respect for that. And I also would like to say that I understand and agree with Senator Chambers that certainly hope is not enough. He's absolutely right. And sometimes, sometimes it takes dollars, takes dollars to make things change and to protect children and to protect those not yet born. When I look at this and heard this morning that the state spends \$60 million per week, spends \$60 million per week, I ask how much of that is spent in protecting children? How much goes to preventative services? That's a question well worth asking. The things that we're considering here today, and the ideas that Senator Flood brought up, again, well worth considering. When I stop and think, it