

ONE HUNDRED FIRST LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 236

Introduced by Christensen, 44.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this interim study is to examine in vitro fertilization. The reproductive technology called in vitro fertilization (IVF) has allowed many couples and women to have children who could not have children otherwise. Because IVF creates a human embryo, which is a new and unique human being at its earliest stage of human development, and because several recent uses of this technology in the United States have appeared to treat human life trivially and like a commodity, many Americans are calling for tougher regulations of doctors and clinics that perform this procedure.

In one such case of questionable use of IVF, a single mother with six children had, in one single IVF procedure, at least eight human embryos implanted into her uterus. All eight of these embryos became viable, and she successfully delivered eight children. She is now a single mom with fourteen children.

In many other cases, IVF clinics create more human embryos through IVF than they will use or need. Many of these human embryos are frozen, discarded, or destroyed during medical research. This advancement in reproductive technology has given rise to many moral and ethical questions and dilemmas. Millions of Americans are calling for their state governments to look into

increasing the regulation of this procedure to protect and show respect for human life at all stages of development.

This study seeks to review Nebraska's policies regarding IVF and identify potential areas where regulation is lacking and proper protections do not exist to appropriately secure the dignity of human life.

This study shall include, but not be limited to, examining Nebraska's current regulations regarding IVF, examining the appropriateness of limiting the number of human embryos created during a single IVF procedure, and examining what is the appropriate handling of human embryos created by IVF after their parents no longer want them.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, FIRST SESSION:

1. That the Judiciary Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.