

March 1, 1984

LB 695

and the most innocent members of our human society. I wish that I could do more, but I have tried in the past and as you all know some of it has been found unconstitutional. I find myself at the point of acknowledging the existence of a minimal abortion regulation policy, but the alternative is to do nothing at all and I certainly will never let that happen. Therefore, I am presenting to you today a bill designed to do what the federal courts have said that we can do as a state in regulating late term abortions and those involving viable babies born alive. The numbers of abortions performed in this country and in this state since the Supreme Court approved abortion on demand are staggering. All of those who say that they are personally opposed to abortion and still defend what amounts to routine availability or say that abortion is only a solution of last resort should take another look at what is taking place in society today. More than 11,000,000 babies have been destroyed since 1973. The annual figure now is 1.5 million. In Nebraska more than 50,000 abortions have been reported since 1973. There are more than 400 reported abortions per month. More and more lives are affected by abortion each day. There have been some that have charged me with trying to harass women with some of the legislation that I have introduced. I am not discouraged by that false accusation. My motives have been to point out that abortion is more than just routine surgery and to argue that the state must strive to protect human life and to provide better answers than those based upon killing other human beings. My opposition to abortion is no less today. My resolve is as firm as ever to point out that abortion is killing and to stress alternatives to abortion. What I ask of you today is to support this legislation so that our state can have at least a minimal standard of protection with regard to abortion. It is especially important to provide the protection we are allowed to provide with respect to late term abortions and those abortions result in babies being born alive. Now I did send out to you today on your desk a detailed explanation of what we are doing in LB 695, more or less section by section and I'm sure that since you got it before nine o'clock there has been ample time for you to read what we are doing in LB 695 and we will certainly save a lot of time if we just read what we are doing, some of the things

8519