

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

January 12, 2000 LB 480

antiabortion. Creighton School of Medicine is antiabortion. And I read this letter, dated January 4th, from Creighton University School of Medicine, first paragraph: Dear Senator Schimek, the Health Sciences Schools of Creighton University enthusiastically support LB 480, which will create a Women's Health Initiative of Nebraska. A focus on women's health is important, it is necessary, and it is overdue. Do you all think that if there was some hidden conspiracy here to make it a proabortion bill the people at Creighton University Medical School would have missed it? Let me read their last paragraph: The creation of the Women's Health Initiative Council is an important component of LB 480. We are pleased that the membership will include a representative from both the University of Nebraska Medical Center and the Creighton University School of Medicine. Creighton's Medical School has a long tradition of collaborating with UNMC on issues that affect the health of the population of Nebraska, and the leadership at both institutions are committed to building on that fruitful collaboration for the benefit of all Nebraskans. If Senator Tyson is so hung up on abortion that he sees proabortion lurking everywhere that you have any program talking about the health of women, let him indulge that. That is his orientation. But the rest of us need not let this discussion and this bill be dragged down to that level. If somebody says they don't think that you ought to have a commission like this I would think they're misguided, but that is a difference of opinion. But to see in this some sinister attempt to have it turn into a proabortion initiative, if it wasn't Senator Tyson bringing it up I'd say he's crazy, but since he's bringing it up I say it's absolutely insane, because we don't use...we don't use the vernacular when we talk to each other. "Crazy" is just a common term. I have to elevate it to the level of insanity so that I don't show disrespect for my esteemed colleague. Brothers and sisters, everybody, especially me, understands the right of any member to offer any amendment which he or she desires for whatever purpose, and I like to see my mentee attempting to do things that he has observed the master do. But, as often happens, the mentee does not understand all the ins and outs of what the master has done. So when the master takes a Stradivari and he listens to those very sweet, ethereal notes, and the mentee picks it up and gets to squeaking and squawking, he thinks something is wrong with the violin instead of his ability and he