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department applied for and got what amounted to, I believe, over a four or five year period, about a \$9 million grant to get the Every Woman Matters Program begun. So maybe it would have happened without this Legislature saying so, but I doubt it. They wouldn't have had the authority maybe to go out and get a program like that started. So I would contend that often the Legislature gives direction. This bill gives an opportunity for coordination of all the different agencies and the three different divisions in the Department of Health. And furthermore, it does not establish an independent...

SENATOR COORDSEN: Time.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: ...commission.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Before we go to the next speaker, Senator Stuhr would like to announce that she has a new grandson, born on Easter morning, April 4th. Eight pounds two ounce Austin Boyd, son of Boyd, Jr. and Laurie Stuhr of Bradshaw. Congratulations again, Grandma! Moving to our list of speakers, Senator Suttle, please.

SENATOR SUTTLE: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I do want to thank Senator Schimek for introducing this legislation. We did work closely together this summer and talked to many women physicians, and they were most interested in seeing this made a priority. I'm glad to hear from the Department of Health and Human Services System that they are making this part of the effort to put women's health on the front burner. We, as policymakers, must assert the broader public interest in achieving a healthy state. Women, traditionally, are the ones that provide health care to their families and are the largest consumers of preventative medicine. It's important for us to send a message that women's health is a priority for us as legislators. Government does not...does ration health care in this state, every state rations taxpayers' money in a process called budgeting. Neither the health care system, nor the government can continue to do everything for every patient. It's hard for me, as once being a health provider, to say that, but whoever pays for health care rations medicine. An insurance contract is a rationing document in that it limits what is covered and not covered. We, as the