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LB 480

policymaking body, must decide what is priority and what is not. Women take care of their children, their husbands and themselves, usually in that order. Concentrating the state's resources towards women's health helps everyone. And as policymakers we must focus our limited resources on where to buy the most help for society as a whole. Preventative medicine is the most cost-effective. If this commission looks at the state's availability of health care to its citizens, maternal and child health, cardiovascular disease and cancer prevention, it will begin the important job of setting good policy. This commission also will be looking at the prevention of diabetes, osteoporosis, violence against women, HIV-AIDS, alcohol misuse, obesity, hypertension, and for advocating that women get mammograms, cholesterol screening tests, and PAP smears. I would also like to re-emphasize what Senator Schimek was saying at the end of her time, and that this is not a separate commission. It will be in...working with the Health and Human Services System. And if I have any time left, Mr. President, if I have any time left, I give it to Senator Schimek.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Yes, two minutes, Senator Schimek, if you care to use it. No. Okay. Anything further, Senator Suttle? Thank you, Senator Suttle. Next, Senator Jensen.

SENATOR JENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. First of all, I sincerely want to thank Senator Schimek for bringing LB 480 to the Legislature's attention. The bill expresses concern for women's health and provides a mechanism for focusing on women's health, and for that I'm sincerely grateful to Senator Schimek. I do want to express a few things about the bill that causes me some concern. And because of those things I will not be able to support advancement of the bill from General File. I did not vote for its advancement of the bill from the Health and Human Services Committee. First, I want to make it clear that my reasons for not voting for the advancement of this bill have nothing to do with a lack of concern for women's health. I am truly concerned, as much for the health of women as I am for the health of children, the disabled, the elderly, and every other citizen of this state. I am concerned that LB 480 takes a step in a direction that we should not take. It sends a message that maybe we do not want to send, in that it segments public health policy based on