

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

April 6, 1999

LB 480

addressed. And I see this initiative as a perfect way to address those kinds of things. We also know that African-American women who are elderly are more typically likely to live in poverty and have little or no access to health care. We know the same thing applies to Hispanic elderly women. We know that women live longer, but then as a result of living longer, they are more likely to have serious health impacts and more likely not to have access to health care as a result. We know that the majority of Native American elderly, and the majority of Native American elderly are women, rarely see a physician, primarily because of needing medical assistance that simply is not available because they live in isolated areas in the state, or don't even have the transportation in metropolitan areas to get to health care. There are a multitude of issues that are affecting women's health in the state of Nebraska, and this particular Women's Health Initiative is designed to at least begin to take a look at public policy planning and make some determinations as to how we can begin to provide for better health care for women and begin to take a look at what's necessary so that women can continue to stay in good health into their senior years and, although they live longer,...

SENATOR COORDSEN: One minute.

SENATOR KIEL: ...do not live a very good life because of chronic illnesses. Thank you.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you. Next speaker, Senator Schimek, please.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. There have been several things said here this morning that I would like to answer. And I understand the concern here and I understand that it looks like we're trying to divide the sexes here this morning, and that really isn't the attempt here. The attempt is to provide some coordination and some focus on some issues that haven't had much coordination and focus in the past. And it's happening nationally. I can envision us as being one of these national senators of...centers of excellence that the national...or the U.S. Public Health Service's Office on Women's Health is developing. And let me tell you a little bit about them and what these national centers of excellence do