

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

April 6, 1999

LB 480

SENATOR SCHIMEK: I think there's some misunderstanding about what we're actually doing.

SENATOR STUHR: Would you explain that.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes. This is going to be housed within the Department of Health and Human Services. It is not a separate, independent commission, like for instance the Rural Development Commission, which is totally...

SENATOR STUHR: Outside...

SENATOR SCHIMEK: ...separate from any other department or agency, it's housed within. And it has a Women's Health Initiative Council, which is advisory in nature. And as you know, from looking at the bill, there's about 30 members of lots of different medical disciplines that are included on this council. But it is not an independent commission. There is one place in the bill where it inadvertently mentions a commission, and I don't know why. That was something that was not caught by either Bill Drafters or us, but it was never intended to be separate.

SENATOR STUHR: Also, I notice that you stress three different areas, the education, medical and policy area.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Correct.

SENATOR STUHR: Which of those areas would you see as the most important area?

SENATOR SCHIMEK: I don't know that I could make that choice. And let me tell you a little bit what we talked about when we were putting this together. We don't necessarily think that everything can be done at once, that this initiative, if it's going to be successful, has to be done one step at a time. And so I rather think that will be partly up to the Policy Council and the Department of Health to put the focus where it needs to be first. And, you know, I suppose my preference might be to build on the existing Every Woman Matters Program. There is a program out there called something like Every Wise Woman, or something, that adds on, for instance, heart and osteoporosis.