

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

April 6, 1999

LB 480

that women are taking better care of themselves and staying up on different new procedures and so on and so forth. There again, I don't believe that men do that. And with all the precautions that we have, all the medicine...all the new medical techniques that are out there now, the physicians and doctors still do make mistakes, they're only human. There's still a lot of suffering going on in this great country of ours that would not need to happen. And I believe that all in all this bill will probably, I say probably, in my opinion will probably help that process along. On the other hand, you know, we can only...the medical people can only do as much as we ask them to do. The old saying, you know, you can lead a horse to water, but you can't make them drink. Well that, you know, you have to ask for help in some cases before it can be delivered. I am a little bit concerned about how we are going to implement this new department or division within the Health and Human Services, which I understand that's the way it's going to be. Senator Schimek, if you would respond to just a few questions, please, I'd appreciate it.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Senator Schimek, would you respond, please?

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, yes, I would.

SENATOR JANSSEN: Senator Schimek, as far as you know now is there any place within the HHS that attempts are being made to take care of what you're asking for in this bill?

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Well, Senator Janssen, there are some things that are happening, of course, within the Department of Health and Human Services. And some of those are kind of high-profile and some aren't. And I'm not aware of everything. But I don't believe there is a real focus and coordination, and that's what this is about. The only program that I'm truly aware of that has...well, two of them, maybe, the visibility that maybe you're talking about--one's Every Woman Matters Program, and the other is the WIC Program, which has, of course, been in existence for a number of years and is helpful to pregnant women and their children, their babies.

SENATOR JANSSEN: Okay, thank you.