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LB 480

be the effective agency that I expect them to be as heading the Health and Human Services across the state. I will be supporting this amendment and I hope you will. I do not want this to be a guys against the girls issue and I see some of the guys standing up and speaking in support of this. I know cautions have been expressed, but I do feel, for the good of our state, we need to pass this legislation. Thank you.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Senator Price. Senator Byars, please.

SENATOR BYARS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I've had my light on about three times and off three times of whether I wanted to get into the discussion of this issue, and I kept sitting down in my chair and picking up this handout that Senator Schimek gave to all of us, and across the top I continued reading, "Attention, Attention, Attention, Attention". I think that's what Senator Schimek is attempting to do this morning and I think she is accomplishing everything that she's set out to do. I think all of us that have served in this body, whether it be for months or for years, that have had any type of relationship in public health issues absolutely understand what Senator Schimek is attempting to do in LB 480. When she makes the statement in this handout that keeping women healthier will keep the family healthier, I don't think a more true or a more powerful statement could be made. I think there are many issues surrounding LB 480, some of which that are appropriate for discussion, some of which are really not. But I think that what she's attempting to do and what I hope this Legislature will listen to is that without the direction of this legislative body the Health and Human Services Department, regardless of who's running it, managing it, working in it, staffing it, without the direction of this Legislature the type of initiatives necessary that we're looking at for women, for men, for children, for the elderly, for the disabled would many times not happen. We cannot depend on them to be the catchall, the do-all that we would ideally like to have them be. They need our direction. I think the team that's assembled around the Health and Human Services Department at this point in time is one that is extremely able. I have a tremendous amount of confidence in what they're going to do with the system, and I want to be supportive of them, but I don't think that we can depend on