

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

April 6, 1999

LB 480

not exactly like there wouldn't be anyone in charge if we're not really looking at establishing another whole bureaucracy, so to speak; that we are having a council made up of 30 members, we are having a chairperson of that council who I believe are supposed to be doing the advising in this area. So I believe some...those are some of the reasons that I don't feel that it's actually necessary that we establish an entire bureaucracy. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Stuhr. Senator Matzke, on the Stuhr amendment to LB 480.

SENATOR MATZKE: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I oppose this amendment. I have talked to several of you and I think that some of you are not following the discussion very well. This bill does not establish a new commission. What it establishes is an advisory type council and the only position that is required is the position of executive director, and I hope you'll listen to Senator Schimek. The Department of Health and Human Services has almost 6,000 employees and it would be very easy for that department to take an existing employee and make them the executive director of this advisory council of citizens and representatives. This is not establishing a whole new bureaucracy. All it is doing is establishing a leadership position. As I stated when I spoke before, I spent five years on the Health and Human Services Committee of this Legislature and I've never heard about this task force that Senator Jensen referred to in his comments and which is summarized on this handout that was given to us, so obviously we have people that are concerned about this, who have worked on it, but it has been a matter of lack of leadership, a matter of lack of focus, and I think it's absolutely essential. As we know in government, if you're going to get something down...done, you have to have somebody that is responsible for it. And what we're asking for in this bill is for an executive director of this council. It's a volunteer advisory council, and I think this an essential part of the bill. I think it will not really work without it. I appreciate what Senator Stuhr is attempting to do. Obviously, none of us want to build a bureaucracy. This bill will not build a bureaucracy. I suspect the people that are concerned about this are already in the department and it's simply a matter of structuring it so that women's health gets the