

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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At that time...well, the bill was discussed, failed to advance. I do have amendments pending, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Members, if I can have your attention, please, if you could take your conversations off the floor. Senator Schimek, you're recognized on LB 480.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you, Mr. President, and if I might, I would like to apologize because yesterday when I spoke I forgot to say, thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. So, you know, even us old-timers forget once in a while.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: I didn't sleep very well last night.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: (Laugh) I bet. Would it be proper procedure for me, Mr. President, to give a brief overview of the bill since it has been so long since we actually discussed it? Thank you. Members of the body, I would like to give a brief synopsis of LB 480. Some of you have heard this before, some of you may not be interested in hanging around, but there are some people on the floor who aren't that familiar with the bill, and it is really for them that I would like to address these remarks. To give you...thank you...to give you just a little bit of background on the bill, it really came about because of some issues that had gotten a great deal of discussion over the past six, seven, eight years regarding women's health. And it was on a bill or on a legislative resolution dealing with osteoporosis that the idea was broached that perhaps instead of dealing with women's body parts, I believe was the way that it was put, we should be dealing with the total health picture of women in the state and there should be some kind of focus on it. Well, out of that, and I won't go into the long detail, I'd be happy to answer questions on it, but out of that we actually began working with the Department of Health on crafting a plan for a bill that would put that focus on women's health issues. It was with the help of a great many people that the bill was introduced last year. And I want to tell you, I just want you to know this, that I probably never have worked on an issue in which there has been so much spontaneous grass-roots support. There really is a lot of desire out there, on the part of a good many people clear across the state, that we do something along