

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

January 12, 2000 LB 480

this line. The bill itself would set up a...would set up an initiative under the Department of Health and Human Services, and it would require that there is a point person, an executive director, who is hired by the Department and is...her sole or his sole purpose is to focus on all of these different kinds of initiatives. It was...it's a three-pronged approach. It's an educational approach, it's a medical approach, and it's a policymaking approach. And I would be happy to delve more into those issues as well as we continue this discussion this afternoon. A couple of things make this approach, I think, unique and also ensure that it will have success and ensure that we will be able to bring some monies to the table for these kinds of initiatives. One of the things that the bill provides is for a 30-member commission, and it has provision for people from the corporate world, for people from educational institutions, medical institutions, from people who would actually be customers or clients, if you will, women who would be, just...and in addition to that, a number of medical professionals. And secondly, it sets up a fund which would be available to actually solicit monies for different initiatives. It would, in effect, give us permission to do some public-private partnerships. Why do we need to do this? Until about ten years ago, frankly, when a number of women were elected to Congress, there was absolutely no research available on women in this country and on their health problems. When those women were elected to Congress, they said, wait a minute, we have got to change things. And things did begin to change. And the National Institute of Health now is doing research and there has been a renewed interest in different initiatives around the country. The National Institute of Health has appointed one person...asked each state to appoint one person to be their liaison so that we do have that focus on women's health.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Schimek, if I could have your attention, please.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Members, out of respect to your colleagues, if you could please take your conversations off the floor. Thank you.