

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
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SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Mr. President. Anyway, the idea here is to put some focus on women's health issues and, as the Clerk mentioned, the bill failed to advance last year by one vote. We have worked very hard over the summer with a number of groups who have a great interest in seeing that this bill passes. And if I could get the Pages to pass out some of the materials that we have gathered from some of the summer activities, you will see that there is statewide support and from a number of very important organizations and associations. If you will look at the first few pages, it gives you some idea of the people who have written us, have signed petitions, have really encouraged us to go forward with this project, and they are from all over the state, many of them from the metropolitan area, but a number of them from the more rural areas of our state. In addition, you will see that the Nebraska Medical Association has gone on record in support of the legislation. You will notice that Creighton University's Health Sciences schools have gone on record in favor of this particular legislative bill. They've been very supportive and have actually come to a press conference recently, have helped us do a little informal lobbying on the bill. You will notice the University of Nebraska Medical Center has been very supportive of the issue. And I might add, this may be the only issue at present in which they are agreeing on and they want to work together on, so I think we should definitely encourage that. There's support here from the Nebraska Academy of Physicians Assistants. There's a letter from the Association of Retired Persons, and from the Nebraska Business and Professional Women's Association, and from OWL, which is the Older Women's League. And then you will also see that a number of organizations have actually done newsletter, informative pieces on this. I can't tell you how strongly I feel about the issue. I know that many of you have questions and I hope that we can get to those questions and that we can have a hearty discussion on this today. And I also hope that you have an open mind and that you will consider that when we are talking about women's health issues and keeping women healthy, we are...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: ...really talking about keeping the whole