

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

January 12, 2000 LB 480

biologically encompasses all of us, the one from whom all of sprang, so wouldn't it be more logical, if one word is to encompass all,...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Time.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...to let that word be "woman"?

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Chambers. On the first part of the divided question of the Tyson amendment, Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you. Mr. President, members of the body, I do believe that this first part of the amendment is a very critical piece. It is not that simple, Senator Tyson, because what it would do is it would do away with that staff person, and I don't know how you could possibly have any focus or any initiative without that staff person. Now I did indicate to you earlier that we had allowed in the language of the bill that the Department of Health would actually decide who support staff would be, if any, but that we thought that it was pretty critical to have the executive director in there. I might also mention to you that with that change in language in my amendment, it does drop the amount of the fiscal note because then you would only be talking about the one staff person as well as a little bit of seed money, et cetera. So the fiscal note is actually dropped from last year and I cannot explain why but it has, and then it would drop again if we adopt the Schimek amendment. But I would really protest this first part of this amendment because I do believe it...in a sense, it just guts the whole idea of the bill. You've got to have somebody in charge who is paying attention to these issues, is bringing people together and is trying to accomplish some focus. I have to tell you a story, and maybe I shouldn't tell this but I'm going to anyway. When we were discussing this bill with the Department of Health, and I have to tell you that the Department of Health originally worked on this bill with us, they actually provided a staff person who has helped us set up kind of a focus group, if you will, at...on several occasions in which we were developing the bill. But the Department of Health has...I don't...they have changed their direction somewhat, let's put it that way, and I think that that probably is one of the reasons I think the