

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

January 13, 2000 LB 480

of helping the Health and Human Services System do a better job of spending our money. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Suttle. Senator Thompson, on the advancement of LB 480.

SENATOR THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. Having heard the testimony on this bill and information from the interim study and other health groups that we have met with throughout the state, one of the things that I've been struck by is the high interest of healthcare professionals in taking the information that is relatively recent in...in the history of health studies that does tell us a lot more about women's health, preventative issues that can be...preventative measures that can be taken. It's some things that are currently not happening. But if we had this focus within the department, those people who have this high interest can also be focused in at the state level. They have a commitment to spend the time, but one of the things we need to do as a state is provide avenues for them to be able to connect with what we do as a state government, the vast number of other entities and organizations that have asked for this focus within state government, and you have those in this packet here. They're also willing to raise some money and to look for those other sources, as Senator Schimek said, to bring this to the state to enable us to do a better job. We have the ability with this initiative to have a higher level of coordination, and I don't want to duplicate what's been said before, but I don't think we can understate how this can roll out and have an impact on women and women's health and the costs that we have, as a state, for caring for women that...for diseases and for conditions and repeat of conditions that could be prevented and could be lessened. We need to take that good information and make sure it's rolled out, make sure that all of the people who work on these issues have that information, that they're coordinating it, and that also we provide, in state government, a focus for the people on the outside who work with these conditions on a daily basis who have the ability to help us and also have the resources to enhance state dollars to make conditions better for women in the state. And, with that, I urge you to advance this bill. Thank you.