

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

January 26, 2000 LB 480

force that was put together was put together in anticipation of something like...something like we're doing now. And, in fact, if you go back, it was the Policy Council (sic--Cabinet) that actually gave staff in Health and Human Services, under a previous administration, the go-ahead on working with us on this bill and a lot of this has been generated in anticipation of this bill. But one of the...one of the things that I want to mention to you is, yes, they do compile data and they've been doing that for a long time and they will probably continue to do that no matter what we do with this bill today, but this maybe will help give some focus to some new kinds of data. And then it talks...the sheet talks about the...the Women's Health Task Force and, again, I think that was done generally as a way of implementing this...the ideas in this bill. But I think that it's not as representative in some ways as the council that we've established here, because we brought in the corporate communities, we brought in the medical communities, we brought in the educational institutions, we brought in the women clients, we've brought in a whole array of people that I can think can be helpful in bringing money in to do some of these initiatives, and that is one key component of this bill I don't want you to forget about. It's that fund that will be able to bring in these monies and I think that's a very important thing, and we have done it in the past on other issues. On the mammography, low-income mammography screening bill we put in a fund so that we could generate money and bring money in on that bill and, indeed, we brought in about \$9 million over a 4-year period to be...

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: One minute.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: ...able to start the Every Woman Matters Program in this state. In addition, if you look at the back page of this handout, most of it is about pregnancy and reproduction and maternal care, and I want to emphasize that this bill is more than that. It is about the health concerns of women from the time before they're born right through the end of life. And one of my staff members was at a meeting not too long ago where one of the people in the health department mentioned that there are no funding streams once you get beyond having babies. There's no funding streams for doing anything with osteoporosis or heart disease or any of these kind of things.