

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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which are important. But there is no way the woman in Hebron, Kenesaw or Rushville would know to call the Chronic Disease Prevention and Control Division to get information on the Every Woman Matters Program so she could find out if the lump in her breast is the start of cancer. We talk about making government more user friendly, this will make HHS more user friendly. This is just good public policy, helping our constituents receive the services they need, looking for gaps in services and addressing the needs of the communities we represent. The fourth reason that I would ask you to consider this is that one of the other concerns during the debate on LB 480 is that the Department of Health and Human Services is already doing this. You have all heard this message. I say to you, they are not doing this, they are not doing what LB 480 calls for. What they are doing is following up on a meeting that I had initially with the policy cabinet, two years ago, in the event the initiative, like LB 480, would become law. Without this legislation this focus on women's health could be fleeting and carried out at the whim...

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: One minute.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: ...of whatever administration is in existence. It will not have the force of law to sustain it. It will not have the input from a wide range of professionals, it will not have the focus necessary to survive among all the other projects HHS has on its plate, and they have a big load and a big job. LB 480 will give it the emphasis it needs. And the last reason is the reason that I already mentioned a little while ago, and that is I'm not asking for the override of the A bill. I believe that because the Public Health Office and the Minority Health Office were all staffed, or at least in part for the Minority Health Office, as far as I can tell totally staffed from within the department. And I believe that can be done also with this initiative.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Time. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I've supported this bill all the way across the board, and I support it now. Women comprise more than 50 percent of the population. And, if the day comes that they begin to assert