

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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SENATOR SCHIMEK: Senator Wehrbein, do you know where the staffing for the Public Health Initiative came from?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: No, I don't.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: The four staff members, according to the newspaper article, came from within the department. The \$800,000 grant that was given by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation is to be used strictly for the public health aspects of the program. They found, not one, not two, but four people within the department. Do you know where the Minority Health Officer came from, Senator Wehrbein?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: No.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Came from within the department at the insistence of one of our new members of the Legislature. Now, don't tell me that there aren't any people in that department of 5,800 employees who couldn't do this job. I don't think the money bill is absolutely necessary, and in fact when I had a discussion with the Governor, I thought that might be his tack, that he might veto the money bill and leave the bill intact. It was at least a possibility that he considered. I think there's...I think there's ways to rearrange staff within an agency that has 5,800 employees; there's got to be somebody who can do that job. Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. I have to...I have to...have to reiterate just a few things for you, and one is that until about ten years ago, there wasn't any research done on women in this country, none, "zipo", "zilcho", none! It wasn't until we elected more women to the House of Representatives, who insisted that there had to be some research done on women for women, that the national institute began doing that kind of research. And it's been happening. There has been some marvelous research that has happened over the last ten years, but so much more needs to be done. And then once the research is done, you have to be able to educate people about the results. We don't know what we don't know. Think of all the women who don't know about the different symptoms that women suffer from when they're having a heart attack, or all the women who have different reactions to prescription drugs that can be fatal. There...women are not like men (laugh), I mean, it's