

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

March 16, 2006 LB 562

discussion? Senator Schimek, followed by Senator Thompson.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you, Mr. President and members. Senator Chambers, I think if you're going to have trouble reaching Senator Brown, you're probably going to have trouble reaching me, because I'm probably going to be on Venus or Mars and I suspect some of the other women in this room will be as well. But I rise to say that I'm very, very disappointed by what I read in the newspaper this morning. At one point in the debate yesterday I said to Senator Foley, you know, can't we find some common ground on this? You want services provided to women, I want services provided to women, and can't we reach some kind of an accord on this? I know what...I know what Senator Foley's main interest is in this Legislature. In fact, I believe when he came into the Legislature, the first year he was here, he tried to get funding cut on this program and eliminate it. But I wanted to believe that he'd had a change of heart and I wanted to believe that we could work together and that we could see that there was some additional funding put into these services, because I think these services are very important and I think they're very well done and I think they're very well received, and I've never heard any complaints about these services at all. So I'm disappointed and I'd just like to say that I don't think, from the comments Senator Foley made yesterday, that one could extrapolate that he was going to try to destroy the funding for the services that were already there. We had a lot of discussion on this floor yesterday about that and talked about what we thought the intent of providing more funding was, and the intent was that those services that were out there would be left untouched, but if there were a way to fill in the hole somehow, we would do that, or we would provide some additional funding to some of these areas that ran short of funds. I don't think, in my wildest imagination, I wanted to think that we were going to destroy and take away the funding from some of those clinics out there. I'm very, very disappointed. And I think that one of the things that you have to do on the floor of this Legislature is be as forthright as you can be. And if you make a mistake on the record, then your first responsibility is to come back immediately and correct the record so that there is a trust level here among the people on this floor. If that trust level goes, then the whole system