

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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withdraw this amendment, but I wanted to just simply quickly explain something. I'm concerned in Nebraska (laugh) that we've never found it possible to have a public health system. We have public health but that's only accomplished by local jurisdictions, like cities and counties. In Douglas County in Omaha, there used to be a city-county health department and I was on it. The city avoided the spending and the responsibility for it, and it made sense because everybody who was served by that health department was provided that service by the county, because everybody who lives in the city obviously lives in the county. So it was, you know, it was obviously unfair to tax people in the city twice, once through their county property tax and once through their city tax, to support a public health system. So we straightened that duplication of government out and saved some property tax dollars. But the only systems we have public health wise is that. I...and I...the first thing that I thought of when LB 480 came up was if we had a public health system that, in fact, was looking out for the unmet needs of not just women but men, kids and everybody else all over the state, in the smallest town to the largest city, these kinds of initiatives would probably be unnecessary. But we don't have public health and we never will have a public health system, I don't think, as long as we continue to build programs for 50 kids, that's going to cost \$3.4 million a year to administer, who are troubled kids. I'm not sure if the troubled kids' problem is as serious as the public health needs we have in this state. I don't think they are. It's interesting we could find that kind of money for that kind of a program when we're still letting a couple of the agencies and programs we got that takes care of and houses, people like Geneva and others, they're left falling down, and we don't even have enough LB 309 money to help for that responsibility. And then I thought, well, heck, women outlive men eight or ten years, maybe we ought to think about a health initiative for men, and this amendment says including men. All of those reasons I quote for you are just things that popped into my mind that we should be thinking about. Some day maybe we'll have enough senators (laugh) because I know we don't have...we don't have balances when we're spending the reserve down from \$145 to \$80 a couple of years from now, so we're spending that money fast too doing things like tax cuts or whatever. But...so we're still not meeting fundamental needs of the state and we're spending money on things that aren't nearly