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FLOOR DEBATE

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we keep hearing how this is going to cost the taxpayer or it's going to save the taxpayers money and I would...I would suggest to you that by the very fact that there is not this reinsurance, if you will, that if that pool fails, if the new merged pool fails, the taxpayers are going to pay the bill. We have a successful pool now that is in no jeopardy of failing, and primarily because their insurer, their carrier, is Blue Cross and Blue Shield, who belongs to the Nebraska Life and Health Insurance Guaranty Association and the state...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Time.

SENATOR BOURNE: ...and that group would make up the claims.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Bourne. Senator Bromm, followed by Senators Baker, Redfield, and Tyson.

SENATOR BROMM: Thank you, Mr. President. I don't want to forget to mention a couple things. You may have noticed that there was an AG Opinion requested on this bill and the Opinion was filed last week. It appears on the docket following the amendments and, basically, the Attorney General's Opinion was that there was no...no constitutional problem with the bill, in case that was a question in someone's mind. Senator Bourne makes a point about the fact that people can come and go now with respect to their insurance coverage under this alliance. I would submit to you that it would be the same after the passage of this bill. People could come and go. It's just that right now if people do want to go, particularly any smaller group or small school, there's no place for them to go, and there may not be after passage of this bill. Again, it's been said and said that this is totally voluntary, totally permissible. Thirdly, Senator...Senator Bourne made a point at one time, not in this last comment but the previous one, about oversight or...or how this arrangement now is...has all the supervision of the Department of Insurance. My understanding is that the Department of Insurance monitors the financial stability and...and the backing of the Blue Cross Blue Shield Company. They do not get into monitoring this particular plan. They do not provide oversight to this plan, but to the company that provides this insurance. Now, under the pooling arrangement, if