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face lifts, nose jobs, anything and everything that anybody wants, and then watch the premiums skyrocket for everybody even though everybody doesn't need a hair transplant or a nose job. But I still want to remind you that Senator Labeledz and I both read you this article what Blue Cross is doing in other states and what they said they could do. Senator Labeledz and I never made any promises that we would ask for mandate that they do it. We merely told you what they are doing....

SENATOR CLARK: You have one minute left.

SENATOR HIGGINS:based on this article. So I would have to join with Senator Labeledz and ask that you do not pass this amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Warner, do you wish to close on the committee amendments?

SENATOR WARNER: Well, Mr. President and members of the Legislature, again, the committee amendment does not mandate Blue Cross-Blue Shield, nor does it require anything to be provided for at state expense. It merely states that there is such an option that the employee's expense ought to be available from some other company. I read to you...or did not read it in its entirety, but the letter that was received from Blue Cross-Blue Shield that they will not...would not offer any kind of coverage at the employee's expense, that their current contract does not, and that question was asked because some felt that the Legislature had been led to believe that such coverage in fact was available. Our second concern then was whether or not if this is adopted would it in any way jeopardize the bid that we have received, and, again, based upon the Attorney General's letter it would not provided that the state could provide such coverage in the form of a contract with some other company that was willing to provide the coverage at the individual, or the employee's total expense. And I have not written to anyone to see if such coverage might be available elsewhere, although I have gathered from the comments I have heard on the floor that such coverage may be available from someone. But, again, I think the position of the majority of the committee was merely to put into the authorization for the new health insurance what some believed was the position of the state on this issue that it could only be available if paid for by the individual and to my knowledge that is all that amendment says that if it is to be available at all it has to be paid by the individual employee, the employee being paid and paying the insurance and that the state itself would provide none of the cost for it. Their only obligation