

guaranty associations are there to provide a safety net, an insurance. When you self-fund, you take away the safety net. You're on a tightrope without a safety net and if you fall, you fall hard, and this amendment would place these plans under the guaranty associations, despite the fact they are self-funded. I'm trying to find the exact language here but it...there is currently a section of this bill that specifically removes these plans from the guaranty associations and I'm suggesting that that's another issue to be concerned with. It's on page 4, Section 15, subsection (2), and it says on that that a plan's sponsor shall not be a member of the Guaranty Association. I say they shall be a member of the Guaranty Association and that they shall have coverage under that program. And, again, I am suggesting that that's another concern with self-funded plans. See, one of the things I am suggesting is self-funding has a lot of validity and can save money, but there's a price you pay for it. You pay for it with greater exposure through lack of Insurance Department oversight and you pay for it through greater exposure because you don't have a guaranty association you're involved in. I don't particularly like self-funded plans in the private sector all that well. By doing that, they, again, guaranty associations are gone, Insurance Department regulations are gone, premium taxes are gone and mandated benefits are gone, you really exempt yourself out of a lot of oversight and intrusion involvement, if you want to look at it that way as well, by government. And so there are many, many self-funded plans now in the private sector and this is an attempt to extend it to the public sector. I'm not too crazy about them in the private sector, although, obviously, you have to have some level of them, some form of them. I think they're a little too independent from a lot of things and that's where my concern lies, but now to take what I see as a problem and extend it into the public sector is a mistake and so I'm suggesting here's another example of where that mistake would be made by not involving these plans in a guaranty association and this amendment would include them under our guaranty associations.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Senator Landis.

SENATOR LANDIS: Mr. Clerk, is the amendment in the Journal?

CLERK: No, sir.

SENATOR LANDIS: Okay. Has it been offered and is this the