

the plan? If we want to do this, why don't we develop it ourselves? On about every other issue I can think of, that seems to be what we want to do and some of the same people supporting this amendment or this provision in the bill would say that they'd rather hang onto responsibility for developing policy in the state and yet when it comes to a tough issue like this we say it is our intent that we have university health coverage, now let's have the Governor develop the plan and report back to us. I suggest to you we're not going to have the same Governor between now and 1999. I don't think that I'm wrong on that and so I think that you don't know what the philosophy of the next Governor is going to be. This could be simply thrown in the trash can, for the most part, or dealt with in a very cursory manner by the next Governor. The present Governor might deal with it very meaningfully. I don't know. But in any event, if you're going to have the language in there, then why don't we do it ourselves? That's one of the problems I have with the language. The subject is big enough, it's important enough, it's a dramatic enough policy change that it deserves to be a bill of its own with its own public hearing, with its own study committee or whatever, not as an incidental section comprised of about 10 lines in a welfare reform bill. It's pretty hard to stand up here and say you're against the language because it's so fluffy that it sounds very good, but I submit to you if you are serious about it, then let's do it through the Legislature, let's do it with a bill. We can get on board with the bill that we have alive in the Insurance Committee, have an interim study and keep at it in that fashion if you would like. I'd be perfectly willing to participate in that, be very interested in it. We could have representatives of the industry involved that will be providing the insurance, the Governor's Office, the Legislature, people who aren't able to acquire insurance, people like that. There have been many studies but that certainly...

SENATOR CROSBY: One minute.

SENATOR BROMM: ...would be one that would be worthwhile if we're going to pursue this objective. Those are my reasons for thinking that we should adopt the Witek amendment and let's get this section out of there and move onto the rest of the provisions of the bill. Thank you, Madam President.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Bromm. Senator Chambers.