



When Sen. Alex Deccio, R-Yakima, argued, "I can't believe somebody would go to Portland for a \$3,000 procedure just to save 210 bucks," Dr. Bill Portuese assured him somebody would.

Once, Oregonians were told assisted suicide would bring people here to die. Now it seems they'll just drop by to freeze their foreheads.

But Keiser is not worried about Washingtonians fleeing their own plastic surgeons in a tax escape to Oregon.

"A bad face-lift is about the worst thing that can happen," she says. "I don't think that a woman would trust her face to an unknown doctor.

"I just think about Joan Rivers."

Apparently, for a Seattle woman planning a procedure, there are more significant rivers than the Columbia.

Opponents also argued that since women have 80 percent of cosmetic surgery, taxing it is discriminatory. But the National Organization for Women supports the bill, and The New York Times recently reported that weddings are increasingly preceded by some his-and-hers body work.

It seems there are fewer and fewer people who would consider this bill to be no skin off their nose.

Still, Keiser sees her proposed tax as a win-win snip-snip proposition.

"A lot of my friends, the same age as me, see this as giving them permission," says the senator. "There's a little less sense of self-indulgence when it helps a worthy cause."

If she's right, this would be the first case ever when taxing something encouraged more of it. But two decades' worth of agitation for children's health coverage haven't gotten it done, so Keiser is offering her own slogan:

Collagen for Kids.

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