
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 8426

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1998 Regular Session

By Senators Wood, Thibaudeau, Deccio, Wojahn, Winsley and Kohl

Read first time 02/04/98. Referred to Committee on Health & Long-Term Care.

1 WHEREAS, Medical technology enables some patients to live longer,
2 but is not always able to address pain, fear, unresolved personal
3 issues, and psychosocial discomfort, resulting in growing concern among
4 patients and their families, and in the medical, legal, and religious
5 communities; and

6 WHEREAS, There is a need for more compassionate and varied support
7 for the dying, as well as improvement of medical education regarding
8 death and dying, better patient understanding of advance directives and
9 care options, more effective physician-patient communication and public
10 understanding, and more appropriate referral to hospice care; and

11 WHEREAS, Children with life-limiting conditions need special
12 attention to provide them with palliative and terminal care that is
13 medically and culturally appropriate, and that may help to allow the
14 children to be cared for in their communities;

15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, By the Senate of the state of
16 Washington, the House of Representatives concurring, That a joint
17 select committee on end-of-life issues be created. The committee shall
18 consist of: Four members of the Senate appointed by the President of
19 the Senate, two of whom shall be members of the majority party, and two
20 of whom shall be members of the minority party; and four members of the
21 House of Representatives, appointed by the Speaker of the House of

1 Representatives, two of whom shall be members of the majority party,
2 and two of whom shall be members of the minority party; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the committee shall:

4 (1) In consultation with appropriate groups such as the Washington
5 State Medical Association's End-of-Life Coalition, hospice
6 organizations, and the University of Washington School of Medicine and
7 School of Nursing, and other appropriate state agencies, evaluate how
8 to continue to improve education and training of physicians and other
9 health care professionals in end-of-life care, including trends in
10 medical school, nursing school, and continuing medical education
11 curricula regarding palliative care, pain management, the role of
12 hospice, and the psychosocial needs of terminal patients, including
13 children;

14 (2) Evaluate how to establish a program of public outreach
15 education and information regarding end-of-life issues, as well as
16 provision of objective public information regarding available state and
17 community resources, including home health and hospice services and
18 family support and counseling, and information on organ donation; and

19 (3) Research the possibility of establishing a teaching and
20 resource center in pediatric palliative care in order to improve the
21 quality, coordination, and availability of such care throughout the
22 state. The concept of the pediatric palliative care center is to work
23 with existing medical and nursing school programs to improve palliative
24 care curricula to include culturally sensitive information on
25 palliative and terminal care for children; assist health care
26 professionals in coordination of such care; facilitate the transition
27 of care from curative to palliative to terminal, spanning clinical and
28 organizational relationships; improve clinical practice regarding pain
29 and symptom management for children; provide an inpatient palliative
30 care clinic setting for children; and act as a state-wide resource for
31 physicians with questions regarding standards in pediatric palliative
32 care; and

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the committee report to the
34 legislature by December 1998 on the study and possible legislative
35 action.

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