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**HOUSE BILL 2905**

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**State of Washington**

**66th Legislature**

**2020 Regular Session**

**By** Representatives J. Johnson, Riccelli, Caldier, Doglio, Pollet, and Ryu

Read first time 01/30/20. Referred to Committee on Appropriations.

1 AN ACT Relating to increasing outreach and engagement with access  
2 to baby and child dentistry programs; adding a new section to chapter  
3 74.09 RCW; creating a new section; and making an appropriation.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature recognizes that oral  
6 disease is the most common childhood chronic disease, yet is almost  
7 entirely preventable, impacting school readiness, future  
8 employability, and overall well-being and quality of life. The access  
9 to baby and child dentistry program has made Washington a leader in  
10 oral health care access across the nation, providing greater levels  
11 of access and utilization for medicaid eligible children under six  
12 years old. The legislature further recognizes that the access to baby  
13 and child dentistry program connects children to a dental home in  
14 their communities, enabling children to get off to a healthy start.  
15 While the state has made great strides, children of color continue to  
16 experience higher rates of tooth decay than their peers and children  
17 under the age of two are not accessing care at the same rate as older  
18 children. Therefore, it is the legislature's intent to expand on the  
19 program investments the state has already made to provide additional  
20 outreach and support to eligible families and providers, increase

1 very young children's access to care, and further reduce racial and  
2 ethnic disparities in access to care and oral health outcomes.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 74.09  
4 RCW to read as follows:

5 (1) The authority shall work with the statewide managing partner  
6 of the access to baby and child dentistry program through a no-cost  
7 contract to develop a local access to baby and child dentistry  
8 program fund allocation formula, key deliverables, and target metrics  
9 for increased outreach and provider engagement and support.

10 (2) The goals of the work performed under subsection (1) of this  
11 section are to reduce racial and ethnic disparities in access to care  
12 and oral health outcomes and to increase the percentage of medicaid-  
13 enrolled children under the age of two accessing dental care.

14 (3) The authority shall collaborate with stakeholders to monitor  
15 progress toward the goals articulated in subsection (2) of this  
16 section and provide support to local access to baby and child  
17 dentistry programs and providers.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The sum of two hundred thousand dollars,  
19 or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the  
20 fiscal biennium ending June 30, 2021, from the general fund to the  
21 health care authority for the purposes of this act.

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