
SENATE BILL 5746

State of Washington

53rd Legislature

1993 Regular Session

By Senators Winsley, Moyer, Prentice, Talmadge and Wojahn

Read first time 02/11/93. Referred to Committee on Health & Human Services.

1 AN ACT Relating to family planning services; and amending RCW
2 74.09.770, 74.09.790, and 74.09.800.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 74.09.770 and 1989 1st ex.s. c 10 s 2 are each amended
5 to read as follows:

6 (1) The legislature finds that Washington state and the nation as
7 a whole have a high rate of infant illness and death compared with
8 other industrialized nations. This is especially true for minority and
9 low-income populations. Premature and low weight births have been
10 directly linked to infant illness and death. The availability of
11 adequate maternity care throughout the course of pregnancy has been
12 identified as a major factor in reducing infant illness and death.
13 Further, the investment in preventive health care programs, such as
14 maternity care, contributes to the growth of a healthy and productive
15 society and is a sound approach to health care cost containment. The
16 legislature further finds that access to maternity care for low-income
17 women in the state of Washington has declined significantly in recent
18 years and has reached a crisis level.

1 (2) It is the purpose of this (~~chapter~~ ~~[subchapter]~~) subchapter
2 to provide, consistent with appropriated funds, maternity care
3 necessary to ensure healthy birth outcomes for low-income families. To
4 this end, a maternity care access system is established based on the
5 following principles:

6 (a) The family is the fundamental unit in our society and should be
7 supported through public policy.

8 (b) Access to maternity care for eligible persons to ensure healthy
9 birth outcomes should be made readily available in an expeditious
10 manner through a single service entry point.

11 (c) Unnecessary barriers to maternity care for eligible persons
12 should be removed.

13 (d) Access to preventive and other health care services should be
14 available for low-income children.

15 (e) Each woman should be encouraged to and assisted in making her
16 own informed decisions about her maternity care.

17 (f) Unnecessary barriers to the provision of maternity care by
18 qualified health professionals should be removed.

19 (g) The system should be sensitive to cultural differences among
20 eligible persons.

21 (h) To the extent possible, decisions about the scope, content, and
22 delivery of services should be made at the local level involving a
23 broad representation of community interests.

24 (i) The maternity care access system should be evaluated at
25 appropriate intervals to determine effectiveness and need for
26 modification.

27 (j) Maternity care services should be delivered in a cost-effective
28 manner.

29 (k) Information and counseling regarding family planning methods
30 and technologies, including Norplant, should routinely be made
31 available to women served by the maternity care access system.

32 **Sec. 2.** RCW 74.09.790 and 1990 c 151 s 4 are each amended to read
33 as follows:

34 Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in
35 this section apply throughout RCW 74.09.760 through 74.09.820 and
36 74.09.510:

37 (1) "At-risk eligible person" means an eligible person determined
38 by the department to need special assistance in applying for and

1 obtaining maternity care, including pregnant women who are substance
2 abusers, pregnant and parenting adolescents, pregnant minority women,
3 and other eligible persons who need special assistance in gaining
4 access to the maternity care system.

5 (2) "County authority" means the board of county commissioners,
6 county council, or county executive having the authority to participate
7 in the maternity care access program or its designee. Two or more
8 county authorities may enter into joint agreements to fulfill the
9 requirements of this chapter.

10 (3) "Department" means the department of social and health
11 services.

12 (4) "Eligible person" means a woman in need of maternity care or
13 a child, who is eligible for medical assistance pursuant to this
14 chapter or the prenatal care program administered by the department.

15 (5) "Maternity care services" means inpatient and outpatient
16 medical care, case management, and support services necessary during
17 prenatal, delivery, and postpartum periods.

18 (6) "Support services" means, at least, public health nursing
19 assessment and follow-up, health and childbirth education,
20 psychological assessment and counseling, outreach services, nutritional
21 assessment and counseling, needed vitamin and nonprescriptive drugs,
22 transportation, and child care. Support services may include alcohol
23 and substance abuse treatment for pregnant women who are addicted or at
24 risk of being addicted to alcohol or drugs to the extent funds are made
25 available for that purpose.

26 (7) "Family planning services" means planning of the number of
27 one's children by use of birth-control techniques.

28 **Sec. 3.** RCW 74.09.800 and 1989 1st ex.s. c 10 s 5 are each amended
29 to read as follows:

30 The department shall, consistent with the state budget act, develop
31 a maternity care access program designed to ensure healthy birth
32 outcomes as follows:

33 (1) Provide maternity care services to low-income pregnant women
34 and health care services to children in poverty to the maximum extent
35 allowable under the medical assistance program, Title XIX of the
36 federal social security act;

1 (2) Provide maternity care services to low-income women who are not
2 eligible to receive such services under the medical assistance program,
3 Title XIX of the federal social security act;

4 (3) By January 1, 1990, have the following procedures in place to
5 improve access to maternity care services and eligibility
6 determinations for pregnant women applying for maternity care services
7 under the medical assistance program, Title XIX of the federal social
8 security act:

9 (a) Use of a shortened and simplified application form;

10 (b) Outstationing department staff to make eligibility
11 determinations;

12 (c) Establishing local plans at the county and regional level,
13 coordinated by the department; and

14 (d) Conducting an interview for the purpose of determining medical
15 assistance eligibility within five working days of the date of an
16 application by a pregnant woman and making an eligibility determination
17 within fifteen working days of the date of application by a pregnant
18 woman;

19 (4) Establish a maternity care case management system that shall
20 assist at-risk eligible persons with obtaining medical assistance
21 benefits and receiving maternity care services, including
22 transportation and child care services;

23 (5) Within available resources, establish appropriate reimbursement
24 levels for maternity care providers;

25 (6) Implement a broad-based public education program that stresses
26 the importance of obtaining maternity care early during pregnancy;

27 ~~(7) ((Study the desirability and feasibility of implementing the
28 presumptive eligibility provisions set forth in section 9407 of the
29 federal omnibus budget reconciliation act of 1986 and report to the
30 appropriate committees of the legislature by December 1, 1989; and~~

31 ~~(8))~~ Refer persons eligible for maternity care services under the
32 program established by this section to persons, agencies, or
33 organizations with maternity care service practices that primarily
34 emphasize healthy birth outcomes; and

35 (8)(a) Family planning services, including information about
36 Norplant, shall be provided to women who were receiving medical
37 assistance under the maternity care access program or who were eligible
38 only for emergency labor and delivery services at the time the
39 pregnancy ended.

1 (b) Coverage for family planning services shall continue through
2 the last day of the sixth month following the month pregnancy ends.

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