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SENATE BILL 6516

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State of Washington

53rd Legislature

1994 Regular Session

By Senators West, Talmadge, Moyer, Snyder and Anderson

Read first time 01/26/94. Referred to Committee on Health & Human Services.

1 AN ACT Relating to the award for excellence in health care; adding  
2 new sections to chapter 43.06 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature recognizes the critical  
5 importance of ensuring that all Washington residents have access to  
6 quality and affordable health care. The legislature further recognizes  
7 that substantial improvements can be made in health care delivery when  
8 providers, including health care facilities, are encouraged to  
9 continuously strive for excellence in quality management practices,  
10 value, and consumer satisfaction. The legislature finds that when  
11 centers of quality are highlighted and honored publicly they become  
12 examples for other health care providers to emulate, thereby further  
13 promoting the implementation of improved health care delivery  
14 processes.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** There is created an award to honor and  
16 recognize cost-effective and quality health care services. This award  
17 shall be known as the "Warren Featherstone Reid Award for Excellence in  
18 Health Care."

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 3.**    The governor shall annually identify and  
2 honor those health care providers practicing in the state of Washington  
3 who exhibit exceptional quality and value in the delivery of health  
4 care.    The selection shall be based upon the actual delivery of health  
5 care services by the provider and shall include such factors as  
6 consumer satisfaction, quality measurement, cost-efficient practices,  
7 creative and innovative delivery practices, leadership, and other  
8 factors that the governor deems appropriate.    The governor may appoint  
9 an advisory committee to assist in the selection of honorees if  
10 necessary.

11        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 4.**    The office of the governor shall produce an  
12 application booklet that is sufficiently detailed as to require careful  
13 self-examination of the practices and processes utilized by the health  
14 care provider.    The criteria for judging the award application will  
15 include analysis of:

- 16        (1) Consumer satisfaction - Is quality defined by the consumer?
- 17        (2) Quality measurement - Is there accurate and timely data to  
18 prove that the level of quality has improved significantly?
- 19        (3) Cost-efficient practices - Has the true cost of services been  
20 reduced and not hidden?    How much of the cost savings are being passed  
21 on to the consumer?
- 22        (4) Creative and innovative delivery practices - Has the provider  
23 developed and implemented a new and better process for delivering  
24 health care?
- 25        (5) Leadership - Has the provider clearly defined quality  
26 excellence goals in health care and developed realistic methods for  
27 achieving these goals?    Has the provider helped to educate outside  
28 providers and groups about quality excellence in health care? and
- 29        (6) Other factors that the governor deems appropriate.

30        The application must be completed and submitted to the office of  
31 the governor to be considered for the award.    The application booklet  
32 shall contain additional information including guidelines and examples  
33 for assessing and improving quality and value in health care delivery.  
34 All established health care providers and facilities that provide  
35 health care services in the state of Washington are eligible to apply  
36 for the award.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 5.**    Sections 2 through 4 of this act are each  
2    added to chapter 43.06 RCW.

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