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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 4423**

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**State of Washington**

**57th Legislature**

**2002 Regular Session**

**By** House Committee on Health Care (originally sponsored by Representatives Cody, Campbell, Schual-Berke, Conway and Kagi)

Read first time 02/07/2002. Referred to Committee on .

1 WHEREAS, Access to health care services is an unavoidable need of  
2 all human beings; and

3 WHEREAS, The primary method used to pay for care is health  
4 insurance whether financed by private or public funds; and

5 WHEREAS, The cost of health care insurance is rising at three times  
6 the rate of inflation; and

7 WHEREAS, Health insurance costs have a significant impact on the  
8 solvency of state and local governments; and

9 WHEREAS, Fourteen percent of citizens nationally and about five  
10 hundred thousand citizens in the state are without health care  
11 insurance; and

12 WHEREAS, Employers, whether large or small, public or private, are  
13 finding it increasingly difficult to find and provide health care  
14 benefits to employees; and

15 WHEREAS, Employees and their families are being forced to bear an  
16 increasing portion of this rising health care insurance burden; and

17 WHEREAS, Health care providers are being forced to abandon the  
18 healing professions due to deficient compensation and the growing  
19 complexity of health care regulation; and

20 WHEREAS, Health insurance carriers struggle to remain competitive  
21 in an increasingly complex market;

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, By the House of Representatives,  
2 the Senate concurring, That a Health Care Insurance Options Working  
3 Group be created to be composed of twenty-three members appointed as  
4 follows:

5 The Insurance Commissioner shall chair the working group and shall,  
6 in addition, be responsible for coordinating its administrative and  
7 ministerial duties.

8 The following members are to be appointed by the Governor:

9 A representative of a major state corporation, selected in  
10 consultation with the Association of Washington Business;

11 A representative of small businesses, to be selected in  
12 consultation with the Governor's Committee on Small Business;

13 Three representatives of health care insurance consumers, one of  
14 whom shall represent the interests of people without health insurance;

15 Two representatives of organized labor, to be selected in  
16 consultation with the Washington State Labor Council, one of whom shall  
17 represent the interests of health insurance coverage administered  
18 through Taft-Hartley trusts;

19 Three members selected to represent health care providers,  
20 including a hospital representative, selected in consultation with  
21 appropriate health care provider organizations;

22 One representative of local public health departments and  
23 districts;

24 Two representatives of health insurance carriers;

25 A representative of the health care insurance agents and brokers;  
26 and

27 A Governor's representative.

28 Four members shall be selected to represent the Legislature, to be  
29 chosen by each of the four caucuses.

30 The Secretary of the Department of Social and Health Services, the  
31 Secretary of the Department of Health, and the Administrator of the  
32 Washington State Health Care Authority shall serve as ex officio  
33 members of the working group; and

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Health Care Insurance Options  
35 Working Group hereby created be responsible for examining the privately  
36 and publicly funded health care insurance system in the State of  
37 Washington and for the development of recommendations for its  
38 improvement. The working group shall seek testimony and information  
39 from a broad range of health care stakeholders, and actively solicit

1 public improvement in a community meeting process to build a consensus  
2 on the values to be used as a guide to improving the privately and  
3 publicly funded health care insurance system. The working group shall  
4 seek grant funds for the community meeting process, and is encouraged  
5 to coordinate its efforts with ongoing efforts such as those of the  
6 Washington health foundation. The working group shall prepare a report  
7 including its findings and recommendations and transmit this report to  
8 the Legislature and the Governor no later than January 1, 2004.

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