

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8001

57th Legislature
2002 Regular Session

Passed by the Senate February 5, 2002
YEAS 46 NAYS 0

President of the Senate

Passed by the House March 5, 2002
YEAS 97 NAYS 0

**Speaker of the
House of Representatives**

CERTIFICATE

I, Tony M. Cook, Secretary of the Senate of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8001** as passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives on the dates hereon set forth.

Secretary

Approved

FILED

Governor of the State of Washington

**Secretary of State
State of Washington**

SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8001

Passed Legislature - 2002 Regular Session

State of Washington 57th Legislature 2001 Regular Session

By Senators Franklin, Thibaudeau, Winsley, Costa and Kohl-Welles

Read first time 01/08/2001. Referred to Committee on Health & Long-Term Care.

1 TO THE HONORABLE GOVERNORS OF THE STATES OF WASHINGTON, OREGON,
2 IDAHO, ALASKA, AND MONTANA, AND TO THE HONORABLE GEORGE W. BUSH,
3 PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND
4 SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES, IN
5 CONGRESS ASSEMBLED:

6 We, Your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of
7 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled, respectfully
8 represent and petition as follows:

9 WHEREAS, Thanks to significant investments in research and
10 development by pharmaceutical manufacturers, prescription medications
11 offer ever more safe, effective, and economical means of managing and
12 treating a widening range of illnesses and conditions; and

13 WHEREAS, Prescription medications are the most rapidly expanding
14 component of health care in the Northwest and the United States; and

15 WHEREAS, The prices of most prescription medications developed and
16 marketed in the United States are relatively high compared to the
17 prices of these same medications in other countries and other markets;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, Expenditures on prescription medications for Medicaid
20 recipients in Washington has risen substantially in recent years,

1 placing severe strains on the operating budget of the department of
2 social and health services; and

3 WHEREAS, The federal government, unlike its counterparts in other
4 countries, applies neither its regulatory authority nor its purchasing
5 power to the prices of prescription medication which consequently are
6 markedly higher in the United States than in other countries; and

7 WHEREAS, The United States stands virtually alone among the major
8 countries of the world in recognizing and protecting the legitimate
9 patent rights of companies that develop new prescription medications
10 yet places no reciprocal obligations on these companies to provide
11 reasonable and affordable access to these patented medications; and

12 WHEREAS, The federal government, by legislating to ensure
13 relatively low prices for prescription medications purchased by federal
14 agencies like the Veteran's Administration and for federal programs
15 like Medicaid, while maintaining barriers against state governments
16 taking similar measures, has exacerbated the impact of prescription
17 medication prices on the citizens of the state; and

18 WHEREAS, The high prices of prescription medications weigh most
19 heavily on the least fortunate and most vulnerable citizens, the
20 uninsured and underinsured, as well as those stricken by serious and
21 chronic illnesses and conditions requiring intensive and extensive
22 treatment; and

23 WHEREAS, Managing prices of prescription medications and expanding
24 access to necessary medication will decrease the overall cost of health
25 care by reducing the demand for hospital visits and emergency services
26 and the need for surgical and other expensive procedures;

27 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that in seeking
28 to ensure reasonable prescription medication prices for the citizens of
29 Washington, the state of Washington, through its duly elected and
30 appointed officials, should explore the possibility of acting in
31 concert with other Northwest states to pursue this goal; and

32 BE IT RESOLVED, That the Northwest states should consider
33 cooperative strategies to address the challenge of the high cost of
34 prescription medications, including:

35 (1) Model legislation to ensure citizens access to prescription
36 medications at reasonable and affordable prices;

37 (2) Joint pricing and purchasing agreements for prescription
38 medications;

1 (3) Programs to provide and facilitate access of qualified citizens
2 to supplies of free and discounted prescription medications offered by
3 pharmaceutical manufacturers; and

4 (4) Initiatives to encourage and ensure medications are prescribed
5 in the most effective manner; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
7 transmitted to the Honorable Governors of the States of Washington,
8 Oregon, Idaho, Alaska, and Montana, and to the Honorable George W.
9 Bush, President of the United States of America, the President of the
10 United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and
11 each member of Congress from the State of Washington.

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