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**SENATE BILL 5518**

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**State of Washington 65th Legislature 2017 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Miloscia, Cleveland, Keiser, O'Ban, and Fortunato

AN ACT Relating to fair reimbursement for chiropractic services; amending RCW 48.43.190; creating a new section; and providing an effective date.

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

**Sec.**  RCW 48.43.190 and 2008 c 304 s 1 are each amended to read as follows:

(1)(a) A health carrier may not pay a chiropractor less for a service or procedure identified under a particular physical medicine and rehabilitation code ((~~or~~)), evaluation and management code, or spinal manipulation code, as listed in a nationally recognized services and procedures code book such as the American medical association current procedural terminology code book, than it pays any other type of provider licensed under Title 18 RCW for a service or procedure under the same code, except as provided in (b) of this subsection. A carrier may not circumvent this requirement by creating a chiropractor-specific code not listed in the nationally recognized code book otherwise used by the carrier for provider payment.

(b) This section does not affect a health carrier's:

(i) Implementation of a health care quality improvement program to promote cost-effective and clinically efficacious health care services, including but not limited to pay-for-performance payment methodologies and other programs fairly applied to all health care providers licensed under Title 18 RCW that are designed to promote evidence-based and research-based practices;

(ii) Health care provider contracting to comply with the network adequacy standards;

(iii) Authority to pay in-network providers differently than out-of-network providers; and

(iv) Authority to pay a chiropractor less than another provider for procedures or services under the same or an equivalent code based upon ((~~geographic~~)) differences in the cost of maintaining a practice or carrying malpractice insurance, as recognized by a nationally accepted reimbursement methodology.

(c) This section does not, and may not be construed to:

(i) Require the payment of provider billings that do not meet the definition of a clean claim as set forth in rules adopted by the commissioner;

(ii) Require any health plan to include coverage of any condition; or

(iii) Expand the scope of practice for any health care provider.

(2) This section applies only to payments made on or after January 1, 2009.

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  The office of the insurance commissioner may adopt any rules necessary to implement section 1 of this act.

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  Section 1 of this act takes effect January 1, 2018.

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