
SENATE BILL 5650

State of Washington

52nd Legislature

1991 Regular Session

By Senators West, Wojahn, L. Smith, Niemi, Johnson, L. Kreidler, Amondson, Barr, Sutherland and Bauer.

Read first time February 13, 1991. Referred to Committee on Health & Long-Term Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to community outreach for health; adding new
2 sections to chapter 43.70 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 finds that current
5 health and social service outreach programs focus primarily on
6 multimedia campaigns, telephone hotlines, and professional case finding
7 and referrals. These programs may fail to address the access barriers
8 experienced by high-risk groups, including low-income persons, ethnic
9 minorities, teenagers, substance abusers, and individuals without
10 family or informal supports. The legislature finds that active
11 outreach programs using indigenous, nonprofessional community members
12 and resources offer unique credibility and supports that cannot be
13 duplicated by professional efforts or multimedia campaigns. The
14 legislature further finds that indigenous community outreach programs

1 achieve health improvements comparable or superior to professional or
2 educational outreach programs.

3 The purpose of sections 1 and 2 of this act is to empower
4 individuals, businesses, voluntary community organizations, and others
5 to promote health and prevent illness and injury among high-risk groups
6 in their local community through active outreach programs using
7 indigenous, nonprofessional community members and resources.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The secretary shall assist local health
9 departments in establishing pilot local community outreach for health
10 programs using indigenous, nonprofessional community volunteers. Local
11 health departments shall collaborate with local government and existing
12 community-based organizations, including churches, voluntary
13 philanthropic or service organizations, businesses, schools, community
14 and migrant health clinics, other health care providers, existing local
15 outreach programs, and other interested parties to: (1) Establish key
16 local health objectives that address state health report priority
17 health goals and the United States public health service year 2000
18 objectives; (2) identify geographic areas and population groups with
19 substantial health hazards according to the key local health objectives
20 established according to this section; and (3) develop and coordinate
21 community outreach for health programs targeted toward key health
22 objectives among at-risk geographic areas or groups.

23 Community outreach programs shall focus on direct contact and may
24 provide support, education, referral, or other activities that
25 facilitate access to public and private community resources according
26 to individual or family need.

27 Available funding for community outreach for health programs shall
28 be allocated in grants from the department of health based on broad
29 community participation, potential for health improvements and

1 community empowerment. Applications for grants must provide a fifty
2 percent match of funds or in-kind resources from local government,
3 community organizations, or other private sources. Volunteer hours may
4 be counted against this match at the rate of five dollars per hour.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** If specific funding for this act, citing
6 this act by bill number is not provided in the 1991 omnibus
7 appropriations act, this act shall be null and void.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** Sections 1 and 2 of this act are each
9 added to chapter 43.70 RCW.