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SENATE BILL 5776

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State of Washington

56th Legislature

1999 Regular Session

By Senators Franklin, Roach, Prentice, Zarelli and Costa

Read first time 02/08/1999. Referred to Committee on Health & Long-Term Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to access to chiropractic health care services; and  
2 adding a new section to chapter 48.42 RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 48.42 RCW  
5 to read as follows:

6 (1) For purposes of this section, health care carriers includes  
7 disability insurers regulated under chapter 48.20 or 48.21 RCW, health  
8 care services contractors regulated under chapter 48.44 RCW, health  
9 maintenance organizations regulated under chapter 48.46 RCW, plans  
10 operating under the health care authority under chapter 41.05 RCW, the  
11 state health insurance pool operating under chapter 48.41 RCW, and  
12 insuring entities regulated under chapter 48.43 RCW.

13 (2) For purposes of this section and consistent with their lawful  
14 scopes of practice, health care practitioners that provide covered  
15 chiropractic health care services includes only chiropractors licensed  
16 under chapter 18.25 RCW and osteopathic physicians and surgeons  
17 licensed under chapter 18.57 RCW.

1 (3) For purposes of this section, chiropractic health care services  
2 includes all services included in the chiropractic scope of practice  
3 under chapter 18.25 RCW.

4 (4) Health care carriers shall ensure that enrolled patients have  
5 direct access to timely and appropriate covered chiropractic services  
6 from the health care practitioner of their choice in accordance with  
7 subsection (5) of this section.

8 (5)(a) Health care carrier policies, plans, and programs written,  
9 amended, or renewed after January 1, 2000, shall provide enrolled  
10 patients with direct access to the health care practitioner of their  
11 choice for covered chiropractic health care services without the  
12 necessity of prior referral from another type of health care  
13 practitioner.

14 (b) This section does not prevent health care carriers from  
15 restricting patients to seeing only health care practitioners who have  
16 signed participating provider agreements with the health care carrier.

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