

**HCR 4417 - H AMD**

By Representative Boldt

1           Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the  
2 following:

3           "WHEREAS, The legislature finds that the early years of a  
4 child's life are critical to the child's healthy brain development  
5 and the quality of caregiving during those early years can  
6 significantly impact the child's intellectual and emotional growth  
7 and social adjustment; and

8           WHEREAS, The legislature further finds that early learning  
9 programs that are responsive to family economic necessities and  
10 changing workforce dynamics, yet also strive to preserve family  
11 stability and personal responsibility will best support families in  
12 preparing for and maintaining children's success in school and  
13 life; and

14           WHEREAS, It is therefore the purpose of this concurrent  
15 resolution to initiate a process to develop goals for early  
16 learning and child care programs throughout the state;

17           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, By the House of Representatives  
18 of the State of Washington, the Senate concurring, That:

19           (1) There is established an early learning legislative work  
20 group to make recommendations for developing specific goals for  
21 early learning programs in the state; and

22           (2) Members of the work group shall be appointed by the speaker  
23 of the house of representatives and the president of the senate.  
24 Membership of the work group shall consist of members of the house  
25 children and family services committee, education committee, and  
26 appropriations committee and the senate children and family  
27 services and corrections committee, education committee, and ways  
28 and means committee. Cochairs of the work group shall be appointed  
29 by the speaker of the house of representatives and the president of  
30 the senate; and

1 (3) The work group shall:  
2 (a) Define legislative expectations and provide policy  
3 direction for quality early learning programs;  
4 (b) Identify the most efficient ways to improve the  
5 administration and fiscal management of quality early learning  
6 programs in the state;  
7 (c) Consider licensing requirements for preschools and  
8 kindergartens in the state; and  
9 (d) Seek involvement from families, community groups,  
10 educators, and state agencies involved with early learning programs  
11 throughout the state; and  
12 (4) The work group shall use legislative facilities and staff  
13 from the office of program research and senate committee services;  
14 and  
15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the work group shall report its  
16 recommendations to the legislature by January 10, 2005."

**EFFECT:**

Establishes an Early Learning Legislative Work Group, *rather than* an Early Learning and Child Care Legislative Work Group, to make recommendations for developing specific goals for early learning programs in the state, *rather than* to make recommendations for developing a strategic vision and specific goals for early learning and child care programs and services in the state.

Requires the Work Group to:

- define legislative expectations and provide policy direction for quality early learning programs, *rather than* for a statewide strategic plan for quality early learning and child care programs and services;
- identify the most efficient ways to improve the administration and fiscal management of quality early learning programs in the state, *rather than* identify the most efficient system for the administration and fiscal management of quality early learning and child care programs and services in the state;
- consider licensing requirements for preschools and kindergartens in the state; and
- seek involvement from families, community groups, educators *rather than* stakeholder groups, and state agencies involved with early learning programs, *rather than* early learning and child care programs and services, throughout the state.

Eliminates the requirement that the Work Group make recommendations regarding consolidation of early learning and child care programs and services in the state.

Eliminates the requirement that the Work Group report its progress to the Legislature by December 5, 2004, but retains the requirement that the Work Group report its recommendations to the legislature by January 10, 2005.