
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 4403

State of Washington 58th Legislature 2003 Regular Session

By Representatives Schual-Berke, Skinner, Cody, Hankins, Clibborn, Moeller, Pflug, Morrell, Campbell, Simpson, Conway, Santos and Upthegrove

Read first time 02/12/2003. Referred to Committee on Health Care.

1 WHEREAS, Access to health care services is an unavoidable need of
2 all human beings; and

3 WHEREAS, The primary method used to pay for care is health
4 insurance whether financed by private or public funds; and

5 WHEREAS, The cost of health care insurance is rising at three times
6 the rate of inflation; and

7 WHEREAS, Health insurance costs have a significant impact on the
8 solvency of state and local governments; and

9 WHEREAS, Fourteen percent of citizens nationally and about five
10 hundred thousand citizens in the state are without health care
11 insurance; and

12 WHEREAS, Employers, whether large or small, public or private, are
13 finding it increasingly difficult to find and provide health care
14 benefits to employees; and

15 WHEREAS, Employees and their families are being forced to bear an
16 increasing portion of this rising health care insurance burden; and

17 WHEREAS, Health care providers are being forced to abandon the
18 healing professions due to deficient compensation and the growing
19 complexity of health care regulation; and

1 WHEREAS, Health insurance carriers struggle to remain competitive
2 in an increasingly complex market;

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, By the House of Representatives,
4 the Senate concurring, That a Health Care Access Options Working Group
5 be created to be composed of sixteen members appointed as follows:

6 The following members are to be appointed by the Governor:

7 A representative of a major state corporation, selected in
8 consultation with the Association of Washington Business;

9 A representative of small businesses, to be selected in
10 consultation with the Governor's Committee on Small Business;

11 One representative of health care insurance consumers, who shall
12 represent the interests of people without health insurance;

13 One representative of organized labor, to be selected in
14 consultation with the Washington State Labor Council;

15 Three members selected to represent health care providers,
16 including a hospital representative, selected in consultation with
17 appropriate health care provider organizations;

18 One representative of health insurance carriers; and

19 The Insurance Commissioner, who shall serve as the cochair of the
20 working group.

21 Four members shall be selected to represent the Legislature, to be
22 chosen by each of the four caucuses.

23 One of the consumer representatives shall serve as the cochair of
24 the working group, to be elected by the members of the working group.

25 The Secretary of the Department of Social and Health Services, the
26 Secretary of the Department of Health, and the Administrator of the
27 Washington State Health Care Authority shall serve as ex officio
28 members of the working group; and

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Health Care Access Options Working
30 Group hereby created be responsible for examining the privately and
31 publicly funded health care insurance system in the State of Washington
32 and for the development of recommendations for its improvement. The
33 working group shall determine what should be the appropriate levels and
34 delivery of services in Washington. The underserved areas of
35 Washington and the total aspect of the delivery of health care in
36 Washington, including telemedicine shall also be reviewed. The working
37 group shall seek testimony and information from a broad range of health
38 care stakeholders, and actively solicit public improvement in a

1 community meeting process to build a consensus on the values to be used
2 as a guide to improving the privately and publicly funded health care
3 system. The working group shall review the recommendations of previous
4 health care system analyses. The working group is authorized to
5 establish subcommittees and technical advisory committees as needed to
6 carry out its responsibilities. The working group shall seek grant
7 funds for the community meeting process, and is encouraged to
8 coordinate its efforts with ongoing efforts such as those of the
9 Washington health foundation. The working group shall prepare a report
10 including its findings and recommendations and transmit this report to
11 the Legislature and the Governor no later than January 1, 2005.

--- END ---