
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 4417

State of Washington 58th Legislature 2004 Regular Session

By Representatives Fromhold, Kagi, Benson, Morrell and Kenney

Read first time . Referred to .

1 WHEREAS, The legislature finds that early learning and child care
2 are an essential part of the daily lives of Washington families. The
3 early years of a child's life are critical to the child's healthy brain
4 development and the quality of caregiving during those early years can
5 significantly impact the child's intellectual and emotional growth and
6 social adjustment; and

7 WHEREAS, The legislature further finds that the state is involved
8 in numerous early learning and child care programs and services that
9 are administered through at least three state agencies. A more
10 cohesive and integrated early learning and child care system would
11 result in greater efficiencies for the state and greater accessibility
12 for the families that the programs are intended to serve. An effective
13 system of governance would provide leadership, voice, and vision for
14 early learning and child care in state government; and

15 WHEREAS, It is therefore the purpose of this concurrent resolution
16 to initiate a process to develop a strategic vision and specific goals
17 for early learning and child care programs and services throughout the
18 state in order to provide support to families in preparing for and
19 maintaining children's success in school;

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

3 (1) There is established an early learning and child care
4 legislative work group to make recommendations for developing a
5 strategic vision and specific goals for early learning and child care
6 programs and services in the state; and

7 (2) Members of the work group shall be appointed by the speaker of
8 the house of representatives and the president of the senate.
9 Membership of the work group shall consist of members of the house
10 children and family services committee, education committee, and
11 appropriations committee and the senate children and family services
12 and corrections committee, education committee, and ways and means
13 committee. Cochairs of the work group shall be appointed by the
14 speaker of the house of representatives and the president of the
15 senate; and

16 (3) The work group shall:

17 (a) Define legislative expectations and provide policy direction
18 for a statewide strategic plan for quality early learning and child
19 care programs and services, which places early learning and child care
20 within the context of life-long learning;

21 (b) Identify the most efficient system for the administration and
22 fiscal management of quality early learning and child care programs and
23 services in the state;

24 (c) Make recommendations regarding consolidation of early learning
25 and child care programs and services in the state; and

26 (d) Seek involvement from families, community groups, stakeholder
27 groups, and state agencies involved with early learning and child care
28 programs and services throughout the state; and

29 (4) The work group shall use legislative facilities and staff from
30 the office of program research and senate committee services; and

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the work group shall report its
32 progress to the legislature by December 5, 2004; and

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the work group shall report its
34 recommendations to the legislature by January 10, 2005.

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