
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 8419

State of Washington

58th Legislature

2004 Regular Session

By Senators Franklin, Deccio, Thibaudeau, Keiser, T. Sheldon, McAuliffe and Kohl-Welles

Read first time 01/19/2004. Referred to Committee on Health & Long-Term Care.

1 WHEREAS, A disproportionate burden of disease, disability, and
2 death exists among people of color in the state; and

3 WHEREAS, Infant mortality for American Indians and African-
4 Americans is more than double the rate for non-Hispanic whites; and

5 WHEREAS, African-Americans are more than three times as likely,
6 American Indians and Alaska Natives more than twice as likely, and
7 Hispanics 1.5 times as likely as non-Hispanic whites to die from
8 diabetes; and

9 WHEREAS, The foundations for personal health, academic success, and
10 professional achievement begin in early childhood; and

11 WHEREAS, Comprehensive early childhood development programs foster
12 healthy physical, cognitive, and social development; and

13 WHEREAS, Long-term benefits include improved high school graduation
14 rates, decreases in teen pregnancy, decreased delinquency, and higher
15 rates of employment;

16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, By the Senate of the state of
17 Washington, the House of Representatives concurring, That a joint
18 select committee on health disparities be created to identify
19 opportunities for improving health care status and addressing health
20 disparities in communities of color; and

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the committee consist of eight members
2 from committees with jurisdiction over health and committees with
3 jurisdiction over education: Four members of the Senate to be
4 appointed by the President of the Senate, including two members of the
5 majority party and two members of the minority party; and four members
6 of the House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the
7 House of Representatives, including two members from the majority party
8 and two members of the minority party; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the committee shall:

10 (1) Consider the impact of early childhood development programs on
11 reducing health disparities in communities of color, including a review
12 of information about the sources of critical childhood interventions
13 that impact health disparities such as family resources, child care,
14 education, community organizations, social determinants, and others;

15 (2) Consider opportunities to improve health status of people of
16 color by addressing barriers to culturally and linguistically
17 appropriate health care and health education materials and practices,
18 including a review of opportunities to increase the number of minority
19 health providers in the state through development of career ladder,
20 expanded recruiting, education, and retention programs, so the entire
21 health work force more closely mirrors the people they serve;

22 (3) Address ways to enumerate the racial and ethnic composition of
23 the health work force and health career training, education, and career
24 ladder programs;

25 (4) Evaluate the impact of reductions in health care expenditures
26 on communities of color;

27 (5) Request input from the American Indian Health Commission, the
28 Commission on African-American Affairs, the Commission on Asian Pacific
29 American Affairs, and the Commission on Hispanic Affairs prior to
30 submitting final review and recommendations to the Legislature; and

31 (6) Complete its review and submit its recommendations to the
32 appropriate policy and fiscal committees of the Legislature by November
33 1, 2005.

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