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SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8044

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State of Washington

58th Legislature

2004 Regular Session

By Senators Carlson and Brown

Read first time 01/27/2004. Referred to Committee on Children & Family Services & Corrections.

1 TO THE HONORABLE GEORGE W. BUSH, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,  
2 AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF  
3 REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
4 UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED:

5 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of  
6 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled, respectfully  
7 represent and petition as follows:

8 WHEREAS, Tens of thousands of Washington State residents have a  
9 need to access a variety of human and social service needs each day,  
10 ranging from appropriate child care to affordable housing, support for  
11 a homebound parent to food or crisis counseling for teen parents; and

12 WHEREAS, Thousands of different local, regional, and statewide  
13 organizations in Washington State, both public and private, provide  
14 services that respond to these needs; and

15 WHEREAS, It is often extremely difficult and time consuming for  
16 residents to identify and access available services; and

17 WHEREAS, The process of connecting those living and working in  
18 Washington State with needed services can be simplified by the  
19 establishment of a 211 telephone dialing option; and

1       WHEREAS, The local, regional, and statewide providers of human and  
2 social services would benefit from the more accurate and timely  
3 information about needs and resources around the state that is  
4 connected by 211 services; and

5       WHEREAS, Seventy million Americans (23% of the United States  
6 population) have access to 211 service in 83 communities nationwide;  
7 and

8       WHEREAS, Washington Information Network 211 seeks to create a  
9 statewide 211 system using existing information and referral providers;  
10 and

11       WHEREAS, In 2003 the Washington State Legislature overwhelmingly  
12 supported and passed an act supporting 211 development and  
13 implementation for the residents of our state; and

14       WHEREAS, 211 service will soon be available in Clark County and  
15 King County, providing 211 access to over 2,000,000 people in  
16 Washington State; and

17       WHEREAS, 4,000,000 residents in rural and economically depressed  
18 areas of Washington State will not have access to 211 service until  
19 such time that sustainable public funding is secured; and

20       WHEREAS, Philanthropic contributions already support the majority  
21 of costs associated with 211 development for Washington State; and

22       WHEREAS, Congress recognizes the value and broad public benefits of  
23 211 through the inclusion of 211 service in the Public Health Security  
24 and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002; and

25       WHEREAS, Senator Patty Murray, Senator Maria Cantwell,  
26 Representative Jay Inslee, Representative Jim McDermott, and  
27 Representative Rick Larsen from our fair state of Washington are  
28 cosponsors of Senate Bill 1630 and House Resolution 3111;

29       NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that Congress  
30 immediately pass the Calling for 211 Act, HR3111 and SB1630.

31       BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately  
32 transmitted to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United  
33 States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the  
34 House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of  
35 Washington.

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