
HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4005

State of Washington 60th Legislature 2007 Regular Session

By Representatives Moeller, Takko, Appleton, Cody, Dunshee, Clibborn, Green, Pedersen, Flannigan, Hunt, Roberts, Darneille, Williams, Hasegawa, Kagi, Simpson, Kenney, Conway, Santos, McDermott and Ormsby

Read first time 01/23/2007. Referred to Committee on Health Care & Wellness.

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, AND TO THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH
5 AND HUMAN SERVICES:

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

9 WHEREAS, The United States has the most expensive health care
10 system in the world in terms of absolute costs, per capita costs, and
11 percentage of gross domestic product; and

12 WHEREAS, Despite being first in spending, the World Health
13 Organization has ranked the United States 37th among all nations in
14 terms of meeting the health care needs of its people; and

15 WHEREAS, Nearly forty-six million Americans, including eight
16 million children, are uninsured; and

17 WHEREAS, Tens of millions more Americans are inadequately insured,
18 including Medicare beneficiaries who lack access to meaningful
19 prescription drug coverage and affordable long-term care insurance; and

1 WHEREAS, Racial, income, and ethnic disparities in access to care
2 threaten communities across the country, particularly communities of
3 color; and

4 WHEREAS, Health care costs continue to rise, jeopardizing the
5 financial and health security of working families and small businesses;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, Dollars that could be spent on health care are being used
8 for administrative costs instead of patient needs; and

9 WHEREAS, Health care reform must ensure that health care providers
10 and practitioners are able to provide patients with the quality care
11 they need;

12 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that
13 legislation be enacted by the Congress to guarantee that every person
14 in the United States, regardless of income, age, employment, or health
15 status, is entitled to receive all medically necessary care under a
16 system of care that meets the following requirements:

17 (1) The system provides a single universal standard of excellence
18 in care applied to all patients.

19 (2) Under the system, care is affordable to all individuals and
20 families, businesses, and taxpayers, and there are no financial
21 barriers to needed care.

22 (3) The system is as cost-efficient as possible, spending the
23 maximum amount of dollars on direct patient care.

24 (4) The system provides comprehensive benefits, including benefits
25 for mental health and long-term care services.

26 (5) The system promotes prevention and early intervention.

27 (6) The system includes parity for mental health and other
28 services.

29 (7) The system eliminates disparities in access to quality health
30 care.

31 (8) The system addresses the needs of people with special health
32 care needs and underserved populations in rural and urban areas.

33 (9) The system promotes quality and better health outcomes.

34 (10) The system addresses the need to have adequate numbers of
35 qualified health care caregivers, practitioners, and providers to
36 guarantee timely access to quality care.

37 (11) The system provides adequate and timely payments in order to
38 guarantee access to providers.

1 (12) The system fosters a strong network of health care facilities,
2 including safety-net providers.

3 (13) The system ensures continuity of coverage and continuity of
4 care.

5 (14) The system maximizes consumer choice of health care providers
6 and practitioners.

7 (15) The system is easy for patients, providers, and practitioners
8 to use and reduces paperwork.

9 (16) The system provides patients with sufficient information to
10 make informed decisions when selecting their health care providers.

11 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
12 transmitted to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United
13 States, the Secretary of the United States Department of Health and
14 Human Services, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker
15 of the House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the
16 State of Washington.

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