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SENATE BILL 6116

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State of Washington                      60th Legislature                      2007 Regular Session

By Senators Pflug, Hobbs, Benton, Zarelli, Shin, Stevens, Kilmer, Hatfield, Roach, Marr, Swecker, Hargrove, Brandland, Holmquist, Honeyford, Carrell and Kohl-Welles

Read first time 02/23/2007. Referred to Committee on Health & Long-Term Care.

1            AN ACT Relating to health care for veterans; adding a new section  
2 to chapter 43.70 RCW; and creating a new section.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that our primary care  
5 health care system may not be prepared to care for the routine health  
6 care needs of veterans and fully prepared to address the physical and  
7 mental health needs of our veterans, especially those returning  
8 recently from war. Many veterans are living with chronic illness and  
9 disability. It would be to the great benefit of veterans and their  
10 families to ensure that primary care providers are prepared to care for  
11 the chronic conditions and injuries, as well as the routine health care  
12 needs, of veterans.

13            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.70 RCW  
14 to read as follows:

15            (1) The department shall conduct a program of training and  
16 technical assistance for providers of primary care regarding care of  
17 veterans who have served in heavy combat zones and have chronic  
18 conditions. The program shall emphasize evidence-based high quality

1 preventive and chronic disease and injury care that addresses the  
2 diseases and injuries that are most prevalent in veterans, and  
3 particularly those returning recently from the combat zone. The  
4 department may designate one or more chronic conditions to be the  
5 subject of the program.

6 (2) The training and technical assistance program shall include the  
7 following elements:

8 (a) Clinical information systems and sharing and organization of  
9 patient data;

10 (b) Decision support to promote evidence-based care;

11 (c) Clinical delivery system design;

12 (d) Support for patients managing their own conditions;

13 (e) Collaboration with facilities and providers that serve  
14 primarily veterans; and

15 (f) Identification and use of community resources that are  
16 available in the community for patients and their families.

17 (3) In selecting primary care providers to participate in the  
18 program, the department shall consider the geographic location in  
19 proximity to military bases, number and type of patients with chronic  
20 conditions and injuries the provider serves, and the provider's  
21 participation in the medicaid and medicare programs.

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