CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6019

Chapter 131, Laws of 2009

61st Legislature 2009 Regular Session

EMPLOYEE WELLNESS PROGRAMS

EFFECTIVE DATE: 07/26/09

Passed by the Senate March 9, 2009 YEAS 45 NAYS 0

BRAD OWEN

President of the Senate

Passed by the House April 8, 2009 YEAS 98 NAYS 0

FRANK CHOPP

Speaker of the House of Representatives

CERTIFICATE

I, Thomas Hoemann, Secretary of the Senate of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6019 as passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives on the dates hereon set forth.

THOMAS HOEMANN

Secretary

FILED

April 20, 2009

Secretary of State State of Washington

CHRISTINE GREGOIRE

Governor of the State of Washington

Approved April 17, 2009, 3:33 p.m.

SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6019

Passed Legislature - 2009 Regular Session

State of Washington 61st Legislature 2009 Regular Session

By Senate Health & Long-Term Care (originally sponsored by Senators Keiser, Parlette, Kilmer, Jarrett, Tom, Holmquist, Pflug, Shin, and Schoesler)

READ FIRST TIME 02/25/09.

1 AN ACT Relating to employee wellness programs; and amending RCW 2 48.21.045, 48.44.023, and 48.46.066.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 48.21.045 and 2008 c 143 s 6 are each amended to read 5 as follows:

(1)(a) An insurer offering any health benefit plan to a small 6 7 employer, either directly or through an association or member-governed 8 group formed specifically for the purpose of purchasing health care, 9 may offer and actively market to the small employer a health benefit 10 plan featuring a limited schedule of covered health care services. Nothing in this subsection shall preclude an insurer from offering, or 11 12 a small employer from purchasing, other health benefit plans that may have more comprehensive benefits than those included in the product 13 offered under this subsection. An insurer offering a health benefit 14 15 plan under this subsection shall clearly disclose all covered benefits to the small employer in a brochure filed with the commissioner. 16

(b) A health benefit plan offered under this subsection shall provide coverage for hospital expenses and services rendered by a physician licensed under chapter 18.57 or 18.71 RCW but is not subject to the requirements of RCW 48.21.130, 48.21.140, 48.21.141, 48.21.142,
 48.21.144, 48.21.146, 48.21.160 through 48.21.197, 48.21.200,
 48.21.220, 48.21.225, 48.21.230, 48.21.235, 48.21.244, 48.21.250,
 48.21.300, 48.21.310, or 48.21.320.

5 (2) Nothing in this section shall prohibit an insurer from 6 offering, or a purchaser from seeking, health benefit plans with 7 benefits in excess of the health benefit plan offered under subsection 8 (1) of this section. All forms, policies, and contracts shall be 9 submitted for approval to the commissioner, and the rates of any plan 10 offered under this section shall be reasonable in relation to the 11 benefits thereto.

(3) Premium rates for health benefit plans for small employers asdefined in this section shall be subject to the following provisions:

(a) The insurer shall develop its rates based on an adjustedcommunity rate and may only vary the adjusted community rate for:

16 (i) Geographic area;

17 (ii) Family size;

18 (iii) Age; and

19 (iv) Wellness activities.

(b) The adjustment for age in (a)(iii) of this subsection may not use age brackets smaller than five-year increments, which shall begin with age twenty and end with age sixty-five. Employees under the age of twenty shall be treated as those age twenty.

(c) The insurer shall be permitted to develop separate rates for individuals age sixty-five or older for coverage for which medicare is the primary payer and coverage for which medicare is not the primary payer. Both rates shall be subject to the requirements of this subsection (3).

(d) The permitted rates for any age group shall be no more than four hundred twenty-five percent of the lowest rate for all age groups on January 1, 1996, four hundred percent on January 1, 1997, and three hundred seventy-five percent on January 1, 2000, and thereafter.

(e) A discount for wellness activities shall be permitted to reflect actuarially justified differences in utilization or cost attributed to such programs. <u>Up to a twenty percent variance may be</u> <u>allowed for small employers that develop and implement a wellness</u> <u>program or activities that directly improve employee wellness.</u> <u>Employers shall document program activities with the carrier and may,</u>

after three years of implementation, request a reduction in premiums 1 2 based on improved employee health and wellness. While carriers may review the employer's claim history when making a determination 3 regarding whether the employer's wellness program has improved employee 4 health, the carrier may not use maternity or prevention services claims 5 to deny the employer's request. Carriers may consider issues such as б 7 improved productivity or a reduction in absenteeism due to illness if submitted by the employer for consideration. Interested employers may 8 also work with the carrier to develop a wellness program and a means to 9 track improved employee health. 10

(f) The rate charged for a health benefit plan offered under this section may not be adjusted more frequently than annually except that the premium may be changed to reflect:

14 (i) Changes to the enrollment of the small employer;

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(ii) Changes to the family composition of the employee;

16 (iii) Changes to the health benefit plan requested by the small 17 employer; or

18 (iv) Changes in government requirements affecting the health 19 benefit plan.

20 (g) Rating factors shall produce premiums for identical groups that 21 differ only by the amounts attributable to plan design, with the 22 exception of discounts for health improvement programs.

(h) For the purposes of this section, a health benefit plan that 23 24 contains a restricted network provision shall not be considered similar 25 coverage to a health benefit plan that does not contain such a provision, provided that the restrictions of benefits to network 26 27 providers result in substantial differences in claims costs. A carrier may develop its rates based on claims costs due to network provider 28 reimbursement schedules or type of network. This subsection does not 29 restrict or enhance the portability of benefits as provided in RCW 30 48.43.015. 31

(i) Adjusted community rates established under this section shall pool the medical experience of all small groups purchasing coverage, including the small group participants in the health insurance partnership established in RCW 70.47A.030. However, annual rate adjustments for each small group health benefit plan may vary by up to plus or minus four percentage points from the overall adjustment of a carrier's entire small group pool, such overall adjustment to be

approved by the commissioner, upon a showing by the carrier, certified 1 2 by a member of the American academy of actuaries that: (i) The variation is a result of deductible leverage, benefit design, or 3 provider network characteristics; and (ii) for a rate renewal period, 4 the projected weighted average of all small group benefit plans will 5 have a revenue neutral effect on the carrier's small group pool. 6 7 Variations of greater than four percentage points are subject to review by the commissioner, and must be approved or denied within sixty days 8 of submittal. A variation that is not denied within sixty days shall 9 be deemed approved. The commissioner must provide to the carrier a 10 detailed actuarial justification for any denial within thirty days of 11 12 the denial.

(j) For health benefit plans purchased through the health insurancepartnership established in chapter 70.47A RCW:

(i) Any surcharge established pursuant to RCW 70.47A.030(2)(e) shall be applied only to health benefit plans purchased through the health insurance partnership; and

(ii) Risk adjustment or reinsurance mechanisms may be used by the health insurance partnership program to redistribute funds to carriers participating in the health insurance partnership based on differences in risk attributable to individual choice of health plans or other factors unique to health insurance partnership participation. Use of such mechanisms shall be limited to the partnership program and will not affect small group health plans offered outside the partnership.

(4) Nothing in this section shall restrict the right of employees
to collectively bargain for insurance providing benefits in excess of
those provided herein.

(5)(a) Except as provided in this subsection, requirements used by an insurer in determining whether to provide coverage to a small employer shall be applied uniformly among all small employers applying for coverage or receiving coverage from the carrier.

32 (b) An insurer shall not require a minimum participation level 33 greater than:

34 (i) One hundred percent of eligible employees working for groups35 with three or less employees; and

36 (ii) Seventy-five percent of eligible employees working for groups 37 with more than three employees.

1 (c) In applying minimum participation requirements with respect to 2 a small employer, a small employer shall not consider employees or 3 dependents who have similar existing coverage in determining whether 4 the applicable percentage of participation is met.

5 (d) An insurer may not increase any requirement for minimum 6 employee participation or modify any requirement for minimum employer 7 contribution applicable to a small employer at any time after the small 8 employer has been accepted for coverage.

9 (e) Minimum participation requirements and employer premium 10 contribution requirements adopted by the health insurance partnership 11 board under RCW 70.47A.110 shall apply only to the employers and 12 employees who purchase health benefit plans through the health 13 insurance partnership.

14 (6) An insurer must offer coverage to all eligible employees of a small employer and their dependents. An insurer may not offer coverage 15 16 to only certain individuals or dependents in a small employer group or 17 to only part of the group. An insurer may not modify a health plan with respect to a small employer or any eligible employee or dependent, 18 through riders, endorsements or otherwise, to restrict or exclude 19 20 coverage or benefits for specific diseases, medical conditions, or 21 services otherwise covered by the plan.

(7) As used in this section, "health benefit plan," "small employer," "adjusted community rate," and "wellness activities" mean the same as defined in RCW 48.43.005.

25 **Sec. 2.** RCW 48.44.023 and 2008 c 143 s 7 are each amended to read 26 as follows:

27 (1)(a) A health care services contractor offering any health benefit plan to a small employer, either directly or through an 28 association or member-governed group formed specifically for the 29 30 purpose of purchasing health care, may offer and actively market to the 31 small employer a health benefit plan featuring a limited schedule of covered health care services. Nothing in this subsection shall 32 preclude a contractor from offering, or a small employer from 33 purchasing, other health benefit plans that may have more comprehensive 34 35 benefits than those included in the product offered under this 36 subsection. A contractor offering a health benefit plan under this

subsection shall clearly disclose all covered benefits to the small
 employer in a brochure filed with the commissioner.

3 (b) A health benefit plan offered under this subsection shall
4 provide coverage for hospital expenses and services rendered by a
5 physician licensed under chapter 18.57 or 18.71 RCW but is not subject
6 to the requirements of RCW 48.44.225, 48.44.240, 48.44.245, 48.44.290,
7 48.44.300, 48.44.310, 48.44.320, 48.44.325, 48.44.330, 48.44.335,
8 48.44.344, 48.44.360, 48.44.400, 48.44.440, 48.44.450, and 48.44.460.

9 (2) Nothing in this section shall prohibit a health care service 10 contractor from offering, or a purchaser from seeking, health benefit 11 plans with benefits in excess of the health benefit plan offered under 12 subsection (1) of this section. All forms, policies, and contracts 13 shall be submitted for approval to the commissioner, and the rates of 14 any plan offered under this section shall be reasonable in relation to 15 the benefits thereto.

(3) Premium rates for health benefit plans for small employers asdefined in this section shall be subject to the following provisions:

(a) The contractor shall develop its rates based on an adjustedcommunity rate and may only vary the adjusted community rate for:

- 20 (i) Geographic area;
- 21 (ii) Family size;
- 22 (iii) Age; and

23 (iv) Wellness activities.

(b) The adjustment for age in (a)(iii) of this subsection may not
use age brackets smaller than five-year increments, which shall begin
with age twenty and end with age sixty-five. Employees under the age
of twenty shall be treated as those age twenty.

(c) The contractor shall be permitted to develop separate rates for individuals age sixty-five or older for coverage for which medicare is the primary payer and coverage for which medicare is not the primary payer. Both rates shall be subject to the requirements of this subsection (3).

(d) The permitted rates for any age group shall be no more than four hundred twenty-five percent of the lowest rate for all age groups on January 1, 1996, four hundred percent on January 1, 1997, and three hundred seventy-five percent on January 1, 2000, and thereafter.

37 (e) A discount for wellness activities shall be permitted to38 reflect actuarially justified differences in utilization or cost

attributed to such programs. Up to a twenty percent variance may be 1 2 <u>allowed for small employers that develop and implement a wellness</u> program or activities that directly improve employee wellness. 3 Employers shall document program activities with the carrier and may, 4 after three years of implementation, request a reduction in premiums 5 based on improved employee health and wellness. While carriers may б 7 review the employer's claim history when making a determination regarding whether the employer's wellness program has improved employee 8 health, the carrier may not use maternity or prevention services claims 9 to deny the employer's request. Carriers may consider issues such as 10 improved productivity or a reduction in absenteeism due to illness if 11 submitted by the employer for consideration. Interested employers may 12 13 also work with the carrier to develop a wellness program and a means to 14 track improved employee health.

(f) The rate charged for a health benefit plan offered under this section may not be adjusted more frequently than annually except that the premium may be changed to reflect:

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(i) Changes to the enrollment of the small employer;

(ii) Changes to the family composition of the employee;

20 (iii) Changes to the health benefit plan requested by the small 21 employer; or

(iv) Changes in government requirements affecting the healthbenefit plan.

(g) Rating factors shall produce premiums for identical groups that
 differ only by the amounts attributable to plan design, with the
 exception of discounts for health improvement programs.

27 (h) For the purposes of this section, a health benefit plan that contains a restricted network provision shall not be considered similar 28 coverage to a health benefit plan that does not contain such a 29 provision, provided that the restrictions of benefits to network 30 providers result in substantial differences in claims costs. A carrier 31 32 may develop its rates based on claims costs due to network provider reimbursement schedules or type of network. This subsection does not 33 restrict or enhance the portability of benefits as provided in RCW 34 35 48.43.015.

(i) Adjusted community rates established under this section shall
 pool the medical experience of all groups purchasing coverage,
 including the small group participants in the health insurance

partnership established in RCW 70.47A.030. However, annual rate 1 2 adjustments for each small group health benefit plan may vary by up to plus or minus four percentage points from the overall adjustment of a 3 carrier's entire small group pool, such overall adjustment to be 4 approved by the commissioner, upon a showing by the carrier, certified 5 by a member of the American academy of actuaries that: (i) The 6 7 variation is a result of deductible leverage, benefit design, or provider network characteristics; and (ii) for a rate renewal period, 8 the projected weighted average of all small group benefit plans will 9 have a revenue neutral effect on the carrier's small group pool. 10 Variations of greater than four percentage points are subject to review 11 12 by the commissioner, and must be approved or denied within sixty days 13 of submittal. A variation that is not denied within sixty days shall 14 be deemed approved. The commissioner must provide to the carrier a detailed actuarial justification for any denial within thirty days of 15 16 the denial.

(j) For health benefit plans purchased through the health insurancepartnership established in chapter 70.47A RCW:

(i) Any surcharge established pursuant to RCW 70.47A.030(2)(e)
shall be applied only to health benefit plans purchased through the
health insurance partnership; and

(ii) Risk adjustment or reinsurance mechanisms may be used by the health insurance partnership program to redistribute funds to carriers participating in the health insurance partnership based on differences in risk attributable to individual choice of health plans or other factors unique to health insurance partnership participation. Use of such mechanisms shall be limited to the partnership program and will not affect small group health plans offered outside the partnership.

(4) Nothing in this section shall restrict the right of employees
 to collectively bargain for insurance providing benefits in excess of
 those provided herein.

32 (5)(a) Except as provided in this subsection, requirements used by 33 a contractor in determining whether to provide coverage to a small 34 employer shall be applied uniformly among all small employers applying 35 for coverage or receiving coverage from the carrier.

36 (b) A contractor shall not require a minimum participation level 37 greater than:

(i) One hundred percent of eligible employees working for groups
 with three or less employees; and

3 (ii) Seventy-five percent of eligible employees working for groups4 with more than three employees.

5 (c) In applying minimum participation requirements with respect to 6 a small employer, a small employer shall not consider employees or 7 dependents who have similar existing coverage in determining whether 8 the applicable percentage of participation is met.

9 (d) A contractor may not increase any requirement for minimum 10 employee participation or modify any requirement for minimum employer 11 contribution applicable to a small employer at any time after the small 12 employer has been accepted for coverage.

(e) Minimum participation requirements and employer premium contribution requirements adopted by the health insurance partnership board under RCW 70.47A.110 shall apply only to the employers and employees who purchase health benefit plans through the health insurance partnership.

(6) A contractor must offer coverage to all eligible employees of 18 a small employer and their dependents. A contractor may not offer 19 coverage to only certain individuals or dependents in a small employer 20 21 group or to only part of the group. A contractor may not modify a 22 health plan with respect to a small employer or any eligible employee or dependent, through riders, endorsements or otherwise, to restrict or 23 24 exclude coverage or benefits for specific diseases, medical conditions, 25 or services otherwise covered by the plan.

26 **Sec. 3.** RCW 48.46.066 and 2008 c 143 s 8 are each amended to read 27 as follows:

(1)(a) A health maintenance organization offering any health 28 benefit plan to a small employer, either directly or through an 29 30 association or member-governed group formed specifically for the 31 purpose of purchasing health care, may offer and actively market to the small employer a health benefit plan featuring a limited schedule of 32 covered health care services. 33 Nothing in this subsection shall preclude a health maintenance organization from offering, or a small 34 employer from purchasing, other health benefit plans that may have more 35 36 comprehensive benefits than those included in the product offered under 37 this subsection. A health maintenance organization offering a health

1 benefit plan under this subsection shall clearly disclose all the 2 covered benefits to the small employer in a brochure filed with the 3 commissioner.

4 (b) A health benefit plan offered under this subsection shall 5 provide coverage for hospital expenses and services rendered by a 6 physician licensed under chapter 18.57 or 18.71 RCW but is not subject 7 to the requirements of RCW 48.46.275, 48.46.280, 48.46.285, 48.46.350, 8 48.46.355, 48.46.375, 48.46.440, 48.46.480, 48.46.510, 48.46.520, and 9 48.46.530.

10 (2) Nothing in this section shall prohibit a health maintenance 11 organization from offering, or a purchaser from seeking, health benefit 12 plans with benefits in excess of the health benefit plan offered under 13 subsection (1) of this section. All forms, policies, and contracts 14 shall be submitted for approval to the commissioner, and the rates of 15 any plan offered under this section shall be reasonable in relation to 16 the benefits thereto.

(3) Premium rates for health benefit plans for small employers asdefined in this section shall be subject to the following provisions:

(a) The health maintenance organization shall develop its rates
based on an adjusted community rate and may only vary the adjusted
community rate for:

22 (i) Geographic area;

23 (ii) Family size;

- 24 (iii) Age; and
- 25 (iv) Wellness activities.

(b) The adjustment for age in (a)(iii) of this subsection may not use age brackets smaller than five-year increments, which shall begin with age twenty and end with age sixty-five. Employees under the age of twenty shall be treated as those age twenty.

30 (c) The health maintenance organization shall be permitted to 31 develop separate rates for individuals age sixty-five or older for 32 coverage for which medicare is the primary payer and coverage for which 33 medicare is not the primary payer. Both rates shall be subject to the 34 requirements of this subsection (3).

35 (d) The permitted rates for any age group shall be no more than 36 four hundred twenty-five percent of the lowest rate for all age groups 37 on January 1, 1996, four hundred percent on January 1, 1997, and three 38 hundred seventy-five percent on January 1, 2000, and thereafter.

(e) A discount for wellness activities shall be permitted to 1 2 reflect actuarially justified differences in utilization or cost attributed to such programs. <u>Up to a twenty percent variance may be</u> 3 allowed for small employers that develop and implement a wellness 4 program <u>or</u> <u>activities</u> <u>that</u> <u>directly</u> <u>improve</u> <u>employee</u> <u>wellness</u>. 5 Employers shall document program activities with the carrier and may, 6 7 after three years of implementation, request a reduction in premiums based on improved employee health and wellness. While carriers may 8 <u>review_the_employer's_claim_history_when_making_a_determination</u> 9 regarding whether the employer's wellness program has improved employee 10 health, the carrier may not use maternity or prevention services claims 11 to deny the employer's request. Carriers may consider issues such as 12 13 improved productivity or a reduction in absenteeism due to illness if submitted by the employer for consideration. Interested employers may 14 also work with the carrier to develop a wellness program and a means to 15 track improved employee health. 16

17 (f) The rate charged for a health benefit plan offered under this section may not be adjusted more frequently than annually except that 18 the premium may be changed to reflect: 19

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(i) Changes to the enrollment of the small employer;

(ii) Changes to the family composition of the employee;

22 (iii) Changes to the health benefit plan requested by the small 23 employer; or

24 (iv) Changes in government requirements affecting the health 25 benefit plan.

(g) Rating factors shall produce premiums for identical groups that 26 27 differ only by the amounts attributable to plan design, with the exception of discounts for health improvement programs. 28

(h) For the purposes of this section, a health benefit plan that 29 contains a restricted network provision shall not be considered similar 30 coverage to a health benefit plan that does not contain such a 31 32 provision, provided that the restrictions of benefits to network providers result in substantial differences in claims costs. A carrier 33 may develop its rates based on claims costs due to network provider 34 35 reimbursement schedules or type of network. This subsection does not 36 restrict or enhance the portability of benefits as provided in RCW 37 48.43.015.

(i) Adjusted community rates established under this section shall 1 2 pool the medical experience of all groups purchasing coverage, including the small group participants in the health insurance 3 partnership established in RCW 70.47A.030. However, annual rate 4 5 adjustments for each small group health benefit plan may vary by up to plus or minus four percentage points from the overall adjustment of a 6 7 carrier's entire small group pool, such overall adjustment to be approved by the commissioner, upon a showing by the carrier, certified 8 by a member of the American academy of actuaries that: (i) The 9 variation is a result of deductible leverage, benefit design, or 10 provider network characteristics; and (ii) for a rate renewal period, 11 12 the projected weighted average of all small group benefit plans will 13 have a revenue neutral effect on the carrier's small group pool. 14 Variations of greater than four percentage points are subject to review by the commissioner, and must be approved or denied within sixty days 15 of submittal. A variation that is not denied within sixty days shall 16 17 be deemed approved. The commissioner must provide to the carrier a detailed actuarial justification for any denial within thirty days of 18 the denial. 19

(j) For health benefit plans purchased through the health insurancepartnership established in chapter 70.47A RCW:

(i) Any surcharge established pursuant to RCW 70.47A.030(2)(e)
shall be applied only to health benefit plans purchased through the
health insurance partnership; and

(ii) Risk adjustment or reinsurance mechanisms may be used by the health insurance partnership program to redistribute funds to carriers participating in the health insurance partnership based on differences in risk attributable to individual choice of health plans or other factors unique to health insurance partnership participation. Use of such mechanisms shall be limited to the partnership program and will not affect small group health plans offered outside the partnership.

32 (4) Nothing in this section shall restrict the right of employees
 33 to collectively bargain for insurance providing benefits in excess of
 34 those provided herein.

35 (5)(a) Except as provided in this subsection, requirements used by 36 a health maintenance organization in determining whether to provide 37 coverage to a small employer shall be applied uniformly among all small 38 employers applying for coverage or receiving coverage from the carrier. (b) A health maintenance organization shall not require a minimum
 participation level greater than:

3 (i) One hundred percent of eligible employees working for groups4 with three or less employees; and

5 (ii) Seventy-five percent of eligible employees working for groups6 with more than three employees.

7 (c) In applying minimum participation requirements with respect to
8 a small employer, a small employer shall not consider employees or
9 dependents who have similar existing coverage in determining whether
10 the applicable percentage of participation is met.

(d) A health maintenance organization may not increase any requirement for minimum employee participation or modify any requirement for minimum employer contribution applicable to a small employer at any time after the small employer has been accepted for coverage.

16 (e) Minimum participation requirements and employer premium 17 contribution requirements adopted by the health insurance partnership 18 board under RCW 70.47A.110 shall apply only to the employers and 19 employees who purchase health benefit plans through the health 20 insurance partnership.

21 (6) A health maintenance organization must offer coverage to all 22 eligible employees of a small employer and their dependents. A health maintenance organization may not offer coverage to only certain 23 24 individuals or dependents in a small employer group or to only part of 25 the group. A health maintenance organization may not modify a health plan with respect to a small employer or any eligible employee or 26 27 dependent, through riders, endorsements or otherwise, to restrict or 28 exclude coverage or benefits for specific diseases, medical conditions, 29 or services otherwise covered by the plan.

> Passed by the Senate March 9, 2009. Passed by the House April 8, 2009. Approved by the Governor April 17, 2009. Filed in Office of Secretary of State April 20, 2009.