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SENATE BILL 5538

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State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2013 Regular Session

By Senators Keiser, Schlicher, Frockt, Mullet, Murray, McAuliffe, Kline, and Conway

Read first time 02/01/13. Referred to Committee on Health Care .

1 AN ACT Relating to transparency, accountability, and affordability  
2 in the provision of essential health care services; and adding a new  
3 section to chapter 48.43 RCW.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 48.43 RCW  
6 to read as follows:

7 (1) The legislature finds that when consumers and purchasers have  
8 quality information that is easily accessible, they are better able to  
9 weigh their health care choices and make sound purchasing and usage  
10 decisions. The legislature further finds there is significant variance  
11 in whether consumers and purchasers have access to information  
12 regarding the cost, quality, and overall value of treatment options.  
13 The legislature finds that with the implementation of the federal  
14 affordable care act, the health care marketplace will be expanding on  
15 multiple levels, bringing the emergence of additional health plans into  
16 the state. The legislature intends to be proactive in promoting  
17 greater levels of transparency, accountability, and affordability for  
18 consumers when implementing health care reform.

1           (2) The office of the insurance commissioner and the department of  
2 health shall communicate with health plans, health care facilities,  
3 providers, and other entities as appropriate to identify, and brief the  
4 legislature regarding, current and emerging practices in the health  
5 care industry that show promise in advancing one or more of the  
6 following goals:

7           (a) Promoting transparency for consumers and purchasers about cost-  
8 efficient and efficacious health care services;

9           (b) Improving accountability in the provision of health care  
10 coverage relative to health promotion, disease prevention, and the  
11 amelioration or cure of illness; and

12           (c) Advancing the affordability of comprehensive, integrated, and  
13 community-based health care delivery systems supported by cooperative  
14 activities among health care providers and facilities.

15           (3) The briefing required under this section shall be provided by  
16 January 15, 2014, and each year thereafter. The briefing may include  
17 recommendations for statutory changes that would support implementation  
18 of promising practices aimed at achieving the goals.

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