
SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8004

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Senators Hasegawa, Bateman, Lovelett, Nobles, Stanford, Trudeau, Valdez, and Wellman

Prefiled 12/23/24. Read first time 01/13/25. Referred to Committee on Health & Long-Term Care.

1 TO THE HONORABLE DONALD J. TRUMP, 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
4 THE UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, AND TO THE SECRETARY OF THE
5 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, AND TO THE SECRETARY OF THE UNITED
6 STATES DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES:

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

10 WHEREAS, Universal access to affordable health care is one of the
11 most important issues in the United States; and

12 WHEREAS, Our current health care system is in a downward spiral
13 with costs continuing to skyrocket, medical debt driving many into
14 bankruptcy or life-altering indebtedness, increasing child mortality
15 rates especially in communities with lower incomes, and creating
16 unnecessary suffering in entire families who struggle to maintain
17 health care insurance coverage or recover from the impacts of health
18 care costs up to and including bankruptcy and homelessness; and

19 WHEREAS, Article 25 of the universal declaration of human rights
20 ratified by the United Nations declares health care is a human right;
21 and

1 WHEREAS, Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said, "Of all the
2 forms of inequality, injustice in health is the most shocking and
3 inhumane"; and

4 WHEREAS, A national universal health care program is the most
5 efficient and cost-effective means of providing access to health care
6 for everyone and eliminating the economic, physical and mental health
7 pain and suffering so many Americans are experiencing due to lack of
8 timely access to health care and/or debt incurred; and

9 WHEREAS, A state-run universal health care program, in the state
10 of Washington, absent current barriers in federal law, could replace
11 the state's current multipayer system in which individuals, private
12 businesses, and government entities pay public and private insurers
13 for health care coverage; and

14 WHEREAS, This health plan would establish a state agency to
15 finance all primary and medically necessary health care with
16 substantial savings compared with the existing multipayer system of
17 public and private insurers; and

18 WHEREAS, This health plan would reduce financial barriers to
19 access care and the growing number of residents with inadequate
20 coverage. By reducing administrative and other waste, including
21 health insurance company profits and excessive prices for drugs,
22 hospitals, and medical devices, it would save money on health care;
23 and

24 WHEREAS, Washington businesses and workers will benefit by
25 lowering the cost of health care, removing the burden of unfunded and
26 inadequate coverage, and allowing businesses to compete more
27 effectively on national and international markets. Businesses will
28 also benefit directly by removing the administrative costs of
29 selecting and implementing health insurance programs for their
30 workers, a billion-dollar expenditure for businesses in Washington
31 state; and

32 WHEREAS, The current system of fragmented private health
33 insurance is the main obstacle to expanding access to health care
34 because it promotes administrative waste, both in the processing of
35 bills by providers and in the administration of a health insurance
36 system with its many separate health insurance companies, each
37 offering a large variety of separate plans, each plan involving
38 separate pricing schemes; and

39 WHEREAS, The large number of independent companies and health
40 plans forces each provider to operate an entire back office with

1 billing clerks and other personnel to deal with billing and
2 negotiating prices for services and vastly inflating the cost for
3 providing health care; and

4 WHEREAS, Because the failures of our health care system most
5 dramatically harm marginalized communities, creating a system of
6 universal access, free point-of-service care and standardized
7 reimbursements will not only make health care less expensive, it will
8 also make it fairer and more equitable. Instead of being a system
9 that destroys future opportunity for many, it will be a system which
10 empowers communities through their newfound health and independence;

11 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the
12 federal government:

13 (1) Create a universal health care program to ensure that every
14 resident of Washington state and our country has timely access to
15 health care services without incurring crippling familial debt;

16 (2) Absent federal government action on the request in subsection
17 (1) of this memorial, partner with the state of Washington to reduce
18 barriers and allow the state to successfully implement a universal
19 health system for the people of Washington such as passing
20 legislation similar to HR 6270 (by Rep. Ro Khanna, CA-17) that was
21 introduced in the 118th Congress which will allow states to create
22 their own universal health care programs; or

23 (3) Absent federal government action on the requests in
24 subsections (1) and (2) of this memorial with the appropriate federal
25 agencies, work to grant Washington state the appropriate waivers to
26 remove the restrictions on the state's ability to create a universal
27 health care system.

28 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
29 transmitted to the Honorable Donald J. Trump, President of the United
30 States, the Secretary of the United States Department of Health and
31 Human Services, the Secretary of the United States Department of
32 Labor, the federal agencies involved with granting the requested
33 necessary waivers, the President of the United States Senate, the
34 Speaker of the House of Representatives, and each member of Congress
35 from the State of Washington.

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