
HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4037

State of Washington

52nd Legislature

1992 Regular Session

By Representatives Mitchell, Wood, Schmidt, Moyer, Horn, P. Johnson, Broback, Casada, Beck, Vance, Ballard, Winsley, Brumsickle, Paris, McLean, Miller, Ferguson, Bowman, Tate, Silver, May, Betrozoff, Carlson, Brough, Chandler, Forner and Hochstatter

Read first time 02/05/92. Referred to Committee on Health Care.

1 TO THE HONORABLE BOOTH GARDNER, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF
2 WASHINGTON, AND TO THE SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH
3 SERVICES:

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

7 WHEREAS, Medicaid payments for medical services are frequently less
8 than providers charge to other patients; and

9 WHEREAS, Providers must balance patient services so income covers
10 expenses; and

11 WHEREAS, The requirement to be selective based on the amount of
12 payment may result in turning away some patients or setting limits on
13 numbers of medicaid patients; and

14 WHEREAS, Persons receiving medicaid coupons for medical services
15 may have difficulty obtaining service as a result; and

1 WHEREAS, Medicaid recipients often feel discouraged from obtaining
2 early medical care; and

3 WHEREAS, Delaying treatment frequently results in a visit to the
4 emergency room for even more expensive services; and

5 WHEREAS, Recipient patients may see medicaid coupons as carrying a
6 stigma; and

7 WHEREAS, This creates the danger of de facto rationing as the
8 outcome of knowing that services will not be fully paid for; and

9 WHEREAS, There is no distinction between patients having health
10 care coverage with insurers, contractors, or health maintenance
11 organizations; and

12 WHEREAS, All patients who can show proof of health care coverage
13 are perceived to receive the same quality of care; and

14 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the
15 Secretary of the Department of Social and Health Services investigate
16 the possibilities of contracting for medicaid service with a managed
17 health care system, as defined under the health care access act, and of
18 combining medicaid services with the basic health plan and report its
19 findings to the chairman and members of the Health Care Committee of
20 the House of Representatives by December 1, 1992.

21 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
22 transmitted to the Honorable Booth Gardner, Governor of the State of
23 Washington, and to the Secretary of the Department of Social and Health
24 Services.