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SENATE BILL 5496

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State of Washington

52nd Legislature

1991 Regular Session

By Senators Talmadge, Murray, Wojahn, Niemi, Williams, Gaspard, L. Kreidler, Stratton and Bauer.

Read first time February 4, 1991. Referred to Committee on Health & Long-Term Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to nutritional counseling for medicaid recipients;  
2 creating new sections; and making an appropriation.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the high cost  
5 of medicaid in Washington may be reduced by exposing certain high-risk  
6 recipients to sound nutritional counseling. The legislature further  
7 finds that physicians treating these recipients are recommending  
8 nutritional counseling, but no funding exists for these services.  
9 Therefore, the legislature intends to establish a pilot project to  
10 provide data on the impact of nutritional counseling, the potential  
11 cost savings to the medicaid program, and the improved health of  
12 citizens.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) A two-year pilot project in King,  
14 Pierce, and Spokane counties, administered by the department of social

1 and health services, is established to determine the impact of  
2 nutritional counseling on recipients of medicaid.

3 (2) Recipients participating shall be referred by attending  
4 physicians. Physicians shall refer recipients based on whether a  
5 medical condition could be improved by better nutrition. Focus should  
6 be on high-risk patients such as those with high blood pressure, heart  
7 disease, diabetes, and other risk factors.

8 (3) Those providing counseling services during the pilot project  
9 shall be limited to hospital-registered dieticians, certified by the  
10 state of Washington, who shall maintain data on each patient counseled  
11 in the program.

12 (4) The department of social and health services shall contract  
13 with participating hospitals for the nutritional counseling services  
14 and establish project parameters. The department of social and health  
15 services shall require interval progress reports from the counselors on  
16 each patient.

17 (5) The department of social and health services shall compile the  
18 data and prepare a report for the legislature by November 1, 1993.

19 (6) The project shall commence no later than September 1991.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The sum of three hundred fifty thousand  
21 dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for  
22 the biennium ending June 30, 1993, from the general fund to the  
23 department of social and health services for the purposes of this act.