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SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8026

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State of Washington

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By Senators Thorsness, Owen, West, Roach, Stratton, Sellar, Amondson, Anderson, Hayner, L. Smith, Bailey, Metcalf, Nelson and Erwin

Read first time 01/23/92. Referred to Committee on Health & Long-Term Care.

1 TO THE HONORABLE GEORGE BUSH, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, AND  
2 TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF  
3 REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
4 UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, AND TO THE INTERNAL REVENUE  
5 SERVICE:

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

9 WHEREAS, It is critical that the federal government provide  
10 leadership to the states in order to ensure that health care delivery  
11 reform strategies are compatible and consistent throughout the nation;  
12 and

13 WHEREAS, It is critical that every individual in the United States  
14 be covered by a basic health care policy and insured for catastrophic  
15 care; and

1       WHEREAS, Many citizens cannot afford basic health care coverage;  
2 and

3       WHEREAS, The tax structure does not encourage acquisition of health  
4 care coverage through insurance or direct purchase of necessary medical  
5 care; and

6       WHEREAS, These laws provide tax relief only to those who purchase  
7 their medical care through a health insurance policy provided by their  
8 employer; and

9       WHEREAS, Many individuals currently receive health care coverage  
10 through their employer, however the coverage is not transferable should  
11 they change jobs or become unemployed; and

12       WHEREAS, Many unemployed or underemployed citizens cannot provide  
13 adequate health care coverage for themselves or their families; and

14       WHEREAS, Consumers with very low incomes or very high medical costs  
15 should receive extra tax relief; and

16       WHEREAS, The consumer of health care and the health care  
17 professional together can best make informed medical decisions, based  
18 on personal needs in a consumer-based program;

19       NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that Congress  
20 provide tax relief for medical care and health insurance to employees  
21 and families directly instead of through the workplace; and that  
22 Congress authorize a national health care consumer-based mechanism  
23 that:

24       (1) Repeals tax exemptions currently available to businesses that  
25 provide health care insurance;

26       (2) Allocates money back to consumers so that they can shop for  
27 their health coverage;

28       (3) Institutes tax deductions for individuals who purchase their  
29 own health care insurance and pay for health care from their preferred

1 provider and on purchase of prescription and over-the-counter  
2 medications;

3 (4) Allows tax deductions on personal income tax for medical  
4 insurance and prescribed medications;

5 (5) Provides higher tax credits to those very low-income or high  
6 medical users so that they too can shop for their basic health care;  
7 and

8 (6) Requires all heads of households to purchase at least a basic  
9 level of catastrophic insurance for themselves and their families.

10 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately  
11 transmitted to the Honorable George Bush, President of the United  
12 States, the Internal Revenue Service, the President of the United  
13 States Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and each  
14 member of Congress from the State of Washington.