

# HOUSE BILL REPORT

## EHB 2465

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**As Passed House:**  
February 11, 1998

**Title:** An act relating to health care providers' communication with patients.

**Brief Description:** Expanding the privileged communication from physician-patient to the health care provider and patient privilege.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Dyer, Cody, Backlund, L. Thomas and Cooke.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:**

Health Care: 1/29/98 [DP].

**Floor Activity:**

Passed House: 2/11/98, 95-0.

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### HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH CARE

**Majority Report:** Do pass. Signed by 11 members: Representatives Dyer, Chairman; Backlund, Vice Chairman; Skinner, Vice Chairman; Cody, Ranking Minority Member; Murray, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Anderson; Conway; Parlette; Sherstad; Wood and Zellinsky.

**Staff:** John Welsh (786-7133).

**Background:** Under current law, a physician or osteopathic physician generally enjoys the physician-patient privilege whereby the physician may not be compelled in a civil action before a court of law to disclose information acquired from a patient which was necessary in treating the patient.

This right of privileged or confidential communication however does not extend to other health providers under state law.

**Summary of Bill:** The right of privileged or confidential communication is extended to podiatric physicians regulated by the Department of Health and they may not be compelled to disclose in a civil action information acquired from a patient which was necessary to treat a patient.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

**Testimony For:** All health providers should have the right of confidential communications with their patients protected. It encourages the patient to fully relate their problems without fear of exposure.

**Testimony Against:** None.

**Testified:** Melanie Stewart, Washington State Podiatric Medicine Association (pro).