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HOUSE BILL 1446

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State of Washington

55th Legislature

1997 Regular Session

By Representatives Johnson, Mason, Dyer, Tokuda, Crouse, Sterk, Talcott, Cairnes, DeBolt, Backlund, L. Thomas, Huff, Cooke, Radcliff, Buck, Ballasiotes, Schoesler, Blalock, Dickerson, Appelwick, O'Brien, Keiser, Morris, Kastama, Linville, Sheldon, Mielke, Smith, McMorris, Wolfe, Wood, Scott, Cole, Mulliken, Quall, Gombosky, D. Sommers, Ogden, Doumit, Murray and Costa

Read first time 01/27/97. Referred to Committee on Appropriations.

1 AN ACT Relating to making appropriations to assist retired dentists  
2 to provide dental services to children in rural and underserved  
3 communities; creating a new section; and making appropriations.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature recognizes that establishing  
6 good oral health care habits in a child is important in maintaining the  
7 overall health of the child. The legislature also recognizes that  
8 economically disadvantaged parents face challenges that can be daunting  
9 in securing adequate dental care services for their children in rural  
10 and underserved communities. As these communities struggle to meet the  
11 dental care needs of economically disadvantaged families, the  
12 legislature finds there exists a valuable resource for the provision of  
13 dental care services through retired dentists. However, many retired  
14 dentists who are willing to devote their skills and energies to  
15 improving and maintaining the dental health of economically  
16 disadvantaged children also face economic barriers to performing their  
17 valuable services.

18 It is the intent of the legislature to improve access to dental  
19 care services to economically disadvantaged children and families by

1 providing resources to overcome many of the barriers that inhibit  
2 retired dentists from devoting their services to the improvement of  
3 children's dental health.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The sum of one hundred thousand dollars from  
5 the general fund--state is appropriated for fiscal year 1998 to the  
6 department of health solely for the purpose of the volunteer retired  
7 provider program. Funds must be used solely to increase participation  
8 by retired dentists and for the payment of malpractice insurance and  
9 professional licensing fees for retired dentists participating in the  
10 program.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The sum of one hundred thousand dollars from  
12 the general fund--state is appropriated for fiscal year 1999 to the  
13 department of health solely for the purpose of the volunteer retired  
14 provider program. Funds must be used solely to increase participation  
15 by retired dentists and for the payment of malpractice insurance and  
16 professional licensing fees for retired dentists participating in the  
17 program.

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