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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4030

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State of Washington                      55th Legislature                      1998 Regular Session

By Representatives Backlund, Cody, Dyer, Lambert, Carrell, Koster, Zellinsky, Sherstad and Anderson

Read first time 01/19/98. Referred to Committee on Appropriations.

1            TO THE HONORABLE WILLIAM J. CLINTON, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED  
2 STATES, AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE  
3 OF REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF  
4 THE UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, AND TO THE SECRETARY OF  
5 HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES:

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, Medicaid has emerged as the most important governmental  
10 program to provide health and long-term care services to low-income  
11 persons and such program has continued to grow substantially placing an  
12 ever-growing demand on budgets of the national and state governments,  
13 and if the spiraling costs of Medicaid is left unchecked it will  
14 continue to have a detrimental effect on the social and economic  
15 viability of our communities; and

16            WHEREAS, Although it is well accepted by the people and most  
17 policymakers that public programs can be more effective and efficiently  
18 administered in our states and communities without excessive  
19 regulations, Medicaid remains highly bureaucratic granting flexibility  
20 to states sparingly and only after an extensive and costly waiver  
21 process; and

1       WHEREAS, The recent success of welfare reform is closely associated  
2 with the degree of flexibility granted states in administering that  
3 program and that similar success can be realized in Medicaid if states  
4 are given the same authority;

5       NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the  
6 President submit and Congress quickly pass legislation that grants  
7 states extensive flexibility in the use of Medicaid funding for acute  
8 and long-term care services.

9       BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately  
10 transmitted to the Honorable William J. Clinton, President of the  
11 United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker  
12 of the House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the  
13 State of Washington, and the Secretary of the United States Department  
14 of Health and Human Services.

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