
HOUSE BILL 1496

State of Washington

56th Legislature

1999 Regular Session

By Representatives Murray, Alexander, Cody, Hankins, McIntire, Skinner, Romero and Kenney

Read first time 01/27/1999. Referred to Committee on Health Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to the distribution of health care coverage
2 enrollment information; and adding a new section to chapter 74.09 RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 74.09 RCW
5 to read as follows:

6 (1) Although Washington offers comprehensive health coverage to
7 low-income children, as many as ninety thousand eligible children are
8 not enrolled. Children's access to timely and appropriate health care
9 is essential to their ability to receive a good education, become
10 productive workers, and be empowered to help fellow citizens in need.
11 For that reason, it is paramount that as many eligible children as
12 possible be enrolled in available state health care programs.

13 (2) No later than September 1, 1999, the secretary of social and
14 health services, the administrator of the state health care authority,
15 and the superintendent of public instruction shall implement a
16 children's health care outreach program to inform children and their
17 parents of the availability of the medical assistance program and the
18 basic health plan. Outreach information shall explain, in an easy to
19 understand presentation, at least: Eligibility standards; program

1 benefits; and the importance and advantages of a child's enrollment.
2 Outreach information must be available in the English and Spanish
3 languages and may be available in other languages if deemed appropriate
4 by the agencies. Prior to implementation, the agencies shall analyze
5 available research on reasons why eligible children are not enrolled
6 and review existing outreach programs deemed successful.

7 (3) The agencies shall seek and are authorized to receive private
8 and public gifts or grants that would assist in the funding of the
9 outreach program.

10 (4) The agencies shall submit to the appropriate committees of the
11 legislature an outline of the program's design by August 1, 1999, and
12 a brief status report of the program's implementation by August 1,
13 2000.

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