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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5349**

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**State of Washington**

**56th Legislature**

**1999 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Committee on Health & Long-Term Care (originally sponsored by Senators Costa, Spanel, Long, Fairley, Kohl-Welles, Snyder, Kline, Franklin, Thibaudeau, Wojahn, Rasmussen, Patterson, Deccio and Prentice)

Read first time 03/03/1999.

1 AN ACT Relating to coverage for cranial hair prostheses for  
2 alopecia areata; adding a new section to chapter 41.05 RCW; adding a  
3 new section to chapter 48.20 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 48.21  
4 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 48.44 RCW; adding a new section to  
5 chapter 48.46 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds the following:

8 (a) Alopecia areata and its variants, alopecia totalis and alopecia  
9 universalis, are common, noncontagious diseases that affect an  
10 estimated two million Americans. They are diseases of the hair  
11 follicle with results ranging from large patches of baldness to the  
12 total loss of all body hair. This hair loss can be acute and short-  
13 lived, occurring in just days or weeks, or chronic with years of  
14 regrowth in some sites and progression to new sites.

15 (b) Alopecia areata and its variants are associated with an  
16 alteration in the immunological system, but their cause is unknown.

17 (c) Treatments for alopecia areata, totalis, and universalis using  
18 immunomodulating agents can stimulate new hair growth, but none prevent  
19 new patches from developing. These treatments must be continued to

1 maintain their effect, but treatment for alopecia areata may stop when  
2 the disease goes into spontaneous remission. There are concerns  
3 surrounding the long-term use and side effects of some of the  
4 treatments.

5 (d) Children with alopecia areata, totalis, and universalis may  
6 suffer a profound alteration in their functional status. Children with  
7 alopecia areata, totalis, or universalis have been removed from  
8 mainstream classes and placed in special education classes and  
9 ostracized by their peers.

10 (e) Alopecia areata, totalis, and universalis are recognized  
11 medical disease processes, which cause severe hair loss that can alter  
12 a patient's functional status. The use of cranial hair prostheses  
13 returns patients to their previous functional status.

14 (2) It is the intent of the legislature to clarify that policies  
15 that provide benefits for prostheses must provide benefits for cranial  
16 hair prostheses for alopecia areata, totalis, or universalis.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 41.05 RCW  
18 to read as follows:

19 All state-purchased health care that provides coverage for  
20 prostheses shall include coverage for cranial hair prostheses for  
21 patients under eighteen years of age suffering from alopecia areata,  
22 totalis, or universalis, to the extent that benefits are provided for  
23 alopecia areata, totalis, or universalis, provided that such services  
24 are delivered upon the recommendation of the patient's physician or  
25 advanced registered nurse practitioner as authorized by the nursing  
26 care quality assurance commission pursuant to chapter 18.79 RCW or  
27 physician assistant pursuant to chapter 18.71A RCW.

28 This section shall not be construed to prevent the application of  
29 standard health plan provisions applicable to other benefits such as  
30 deductible or copayment provisions. This section does not limit the  
31 authority of the state health care authority to negotiate rates and  
32 contract with specific providers for the delivery of prostheses. This  
33 section does not apply to medicare supplement policies or supplemental  
34 contracts covering a specified disease or other limited benefits.

35 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 48.20 RCW  
36 to read as follows:

1 An insurer that offers to any individual a health benefit plan that  
2 provides coverage for prostheses shall include coverage for cranial  
3 hair prostheses for patients under eighteen years of age suffering from  
4 alopecia areata, totalis, or universalis, to the extent that benefits  
5 are provided for alopecia areata, totalis, or universalis, provided  
6 that such services are delivered upon the recommendation of the  
7 patient's physician or advanced registered nurse practitioner as  
8 authorized by the nursing care quality assurance commission pursuant to  
9 chapter 18.79 RCW or physician assistant pursuant to chapter 18.71A  
10 RCW.

11 This section shall not be construed to prevent the application of  
12 standard health plan provisions applicable to other benefits such as  
13 deductible or copayment provisions. This section does not limit the  
14 authority of the state health care authority to negotiate rates and  
15 contract with specific providers for the delivery of prostheses. This  
16 section does not apply to medicare supplement policies or supplemental  
17 contracts covering a specified disease or other limited benefits.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 48.21 RCW  
19 to read as follows:

20 A group insurance contract or blanket disability insurance contract  
21 that provides coverage for prostheses shall include coverage for  
22 cranial hair prostheses for patients under eighteen years of age  
23 suffering from alopecia areata, totalis, or universalis, to the extent  
24 that benefits are provided for alopecia areata, totalis, or  
25 universalis, provided that such services are delivered upon the  
26 recommendation of the patient's physician or advanced registered nurse  
27 practitioner as authorized by the nursing care quality assurance  
28 commission pursuant to chapter 18.79 RCW or physician assistant  
29 pursuant to chapter 18.71A RCW.

30 This section shall not be construed to prevent the application of  
31 standard health plan provisions applicable to other benefits such as  
32 deductible or copayment provisions. This section does not limit the  
33 authority of the state health care authority to negotiate rates and  
34 contract with specific providers for the delivery of prostheses. This  
35 section does not apply to medicare supplement policies or supplemental  
36 contracts covering a specified disease or other limited benefits.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 5.**    A new section is added to chapter 48.44 RCW  
2 to read as follows:

3        A health service contractor that provides coverage for prostheses  
4 shall include coverage for cranial hair prostheses for patients under  
5 eighteen years of age suffering from alopecia areata, totalis, or  
6 universalis, to the extent that benefits are provided for alopecia  
7 areata, totalis, or universalis, provided that such services are  
8 delivered upon the recommendation of the patient's physician or  
9 advanced registered nurse practitioner as authorized by the nursing  
10 care quality assurance commission pursuant to chapter 18.79 RCW or  
11 physician assistant pursuant to chapter 18.71A RCW.

12        This section shall not be construed to prevent the application of  
13 standard health plan provisions applicable to other benefits such as  
14 deductible or copayment provisions. This section does not limit the  
15 authority of the state health care authority to negotiate rates and  
16 contract with specific providers for the delivery of prostheses. This  
17 section does not apply to medicare supplement policies or supplemental  
18 contracts covering a specified disease or other limited benefits.

19        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 6.**    A new section is added to chapter 48.46 RCW  
20 to read as follows:

21        A health maintenance organization that provides coverage for  
22 prostheses shall include coverage for cranial hair prostheses for  
23 patients under eighteen years of age suffering from alopecia areata,  
24 totalis, or universalis, to the extent that benefits are provided for  
25 alopecia areata, totalis, or universalis, provided that such services  
26 are delivered upon the recommendation of the patient's physician or  
27 advanced registered nurse practitioner as authorized by the nursing  
28 care quality assurance commission pursuant to chapter 18.79 RCW or  
29 physician assistant pursuant to chapter 18.71A RCW.

30        This section shall not be construed to prevent the application of  
31 standard health plan provisions applicable to other benefits such as  
32 deductible or copayment provisions. This section does not limit the  
33 authority of the state health care authority to negotiate rates and  
34 contract with specific providers for the delivery of prostheses. This  
35 section does not apply to medicare supplement policies or supplemental  
36 contracts covering a specified disease or other limited benefits.

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