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SENATE BILL 5920

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State of Washington

56th Legislature

1999 Regular Session

By Senators Costa, Thibaudeau, Deccio, Haugen and Kohl-Welles

Read first time 02/16/1999. Referred to Committee on Health & Long-Term Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to adding midwives to the definition of health care  
2 practitioners that provide women's health care services; and amending  
3 RCW 48.42.100.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 48.42.100 and 1995 c 389 s 1 are each amended to read  
6 as follows:

7 (1) For purposes of this section, health care carriers includes  
8 disability insurers regulated under chapter 48.20 or 48.21 RCW, health  
9 care services contractors regulated under chapter 48.44 RCW, health  
10 maintenance organizations regulated under chapter 48.46 RCW, plans  
11 operating under the health care authority under chapter 41.05 RCW, the  
12 state health insurance pool operating under chapter 48.41 RCW, and  
13 insuring entities regulated under chapter 48.43 RCW.

14 (2) For purposes of this section and consistent with their lawful  
15 scopes of practice, types of health care practitioners that provide  
16 women's health care services shall include, but need not be limited by  
17 a health care carrier to, the following: Any generally recognized  
18 medical specialty of practitioners licensed under chapter 18.57 or  
19 18.71 RCW who provides women's health care services; practitioners

1 licensed under chapters 18.57A and 18.71A RCW when providing women's  
2 health care services; midwives licensed under chapter 18.50 RCW; and  
3 advanced registered nurse practitioner specialists in women's health  
4 and midwifery under chapter 18.79 RCW.

5 (3) For purposes of this section, women's health care services  
6 shall include, but need not be limited by a health care carrier to, the  
7 following: Maternity care; reproductive health services; gynecological  
8 care; general examination; and preventive care as medically appropriate  
9 and medically appropriate follow-up visits for the services listed in  
10 this subsection.

11 (4) Health care carriers shall ensure that enrolled female patients  
12 have direct access to timely and appropriate covered women's health  
13 care services from the type of health care practitioner of their choice  
14 in accordance with subsection (5) of this section.

15 (5)(a) Health care carrier policies, plans, and programs written,  
16 amended, or renewed after July 23, 1995, shall provide women patients  
17 with direct access to the type of health care practitioner of their  
18 choice for appropriate covered women's health care services without the  
19 necessity of prior referral from another type of health care  
20 practitioner.

21 (b) Health care carriers may comply with this section by including  
22 all the types of health care practitioners listed in this section for  
23 women's health care services for women patients.

24 (c) Nothing in this section shall prevent health care carriers from  
25 restricting women patients to seeing only health care practitioners who  
26 have signed participating provider agreements with the health care  
27 carrier.

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