
SENATE BILL 6673

State of Washington

56th Legislature

2000 Regular Session

By Senators Kohl-Welles and Prentice

Read first time 01/21/2000. Referred to Committee on Health & Long-Term Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to the Washington state clinical depression in
2 poverty study; creating new sections; and making an appropriation.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that clinical
5 depression is a serious problem in America, undermining the ability of
6 those afflicted to deal with work, family, and life issues. The
7 majority of those diagnosed as clinically depressed are women, as are
8 the majority of adult recipients of temporary assistance for needy
9 families. The legislature finds that some studies indicate a
10 relationship between severe depression and poverty, with the
11 possibility that each condition potentiates the other. Furthermore,
12 some major depression appears to have a biochemical cause.

13 The legislature finds that, in recent years, a pharmaceutical
14 approach to the management of clinical depression has proven successful
15 for many of those with middle class access to health care
16 professionals. The legislature intends to provide access to
17 pharmaceutical treatment for clinical depression, under medical
18 supervision, for a study group of temporary assistance for needy
19 families recipients for whom depression is a barrier to employment.

1 The legislature intends that the Washington state clinical depression
2 in poverty study be conducted, to estimate the extent of serious,
3 disabling depression in the temporary assistance for needy families
4 population, and to determine whether medication is effective in freeing
5 an unknown number of those in poverty to live productive and self-
6 sufficient lives while caring for their families.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The department of health shall perform
8 or contract for the performance of the Washington state clinical
9 depression in poverty study to be conducted on the Washington state
10 temporary assistance for needy families adult recipient population.
11 The goal of the study is to estimate to what extent the subject
12 population is experiencing major clinical depression as a barrier to
13 self-sufficiency, and to examine the utility of appropriately
14 administered and medically supervised pharmaceutical treatment for
15 depression.

16 (2) The study shall, at a minimum, consist of the following
17 elements:

18 (a) Initial screening of volunteers for the study, by
19 administration of a simple screening device, such as the center for
20 epidemiological studies depression scale (CES-D) or other scale;

21 (b) Final screening and selection of volunteers by clinical
22 assessment and diagnosis, in accordance with the Diagnostic and
23 Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, third edition revised (DSM-III-
24 R), performed by professionals licensed under chapter 18.71 or 18.83
25 RCW;

26 (c) Performance of an appropriate human subjects review;

27 (d) Division of the study population into a group to receive
28 selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors under medical supervision and
29 a control group; and

30 (e) Analysis and comparison of the study population to assess
31 whether or not clinical depression is a present barrier to self-
32 sufficiency and undermines the ability to achieve economic independence
33 and exit temporary assistance for needy families, and whether or not a
34 pharmaceutical approach to resolution of the depressive condition
35 offers sufficient therapeutic effect to enable and assist the
36 recipient's progress to welfare-independence.

37 (3) The department of social and health services and the employment
38 security department shall cooperate with the department of health, and

1 shall provide access to data and to study volunteers. Personal data
2 and the identities of individual volunteers is protected by
3 confidentiality requirements, to the extent necessary.

4 (4) The results of the study shall be reported to the legislature
5 on or before September 1, 2001.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The sum of one hundred thousand dollars, or
7 as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal
8 year ending June 30, 2001, from the general fund to the department of
9 health for the purposes of this act.

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