
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 8425

State of Washington 57th Legislature

2002 Regular Session

By Senators Thibaudeau, McAuliffe, Parlette and Kohl-Welles

Read first time 01/15/2002. Referred to Committee on Health & Long-Term Care.

1 WHEREAS, Health care is an unavoidable need of all human beings;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, The primary method used to pay for care is health
4 insurance; and

5 WHEREAS, The cost of health care insurance is rising at three times
6 the rate of inflation; and

7 WHEREAS, Health insurance costs have a significant impact on the
8 solvency of state government; and

9 WHEREAS, Fourteen percent of citizens nationally and about five
10 hundred thousand citizens in the state are without health care
11 insurance; and

12 WHEREAS, Businesses both large and small are finding it
13 increasingly difficult to find and provide health care benefits to
14 employees; and

15 WHEREAS, Employees and their families are being forced to bear an
16 increasing portion of this rising health care insurance burden; and

17 WHEREAS, Health care providers are being forced to abandon the
18 healing professions due to deficient compensation and the growing
19 complexity of health care regulation; and

20 WHEREAS, Health insurance carriers struggle to remain competitive
21 in an increasingly complex market;

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, By the Senate, the House of
2 Representatives concurring, That a Health Care Insurance Options
3 Working Group be created to be composed of twenty members appointed as
4 follows:

5 The Insurance Commissioner shall chair the working group and shall,
6 in addition, be responsible for coordinating its administrative and
7 ministerial duties.

8 The following members are to be appointed by the Governor:

9 A representative of a major state corporation, selected in
10 consultation with the Association of Washington Business;

11 A representative of small businesses, to be selected in
12 consultation with the Governor's Committee on Small Business;

13 Three representatives of health care insurance consumers;

14 A representative of organized labor, to be selected in consultation
15 with the Washington State Labor Council;

16 Three members selected to represent health care providers,
17 including a hospital representative, selected in consultation with
18 appropriate health care provider organizations;

19 Two representatives of health insurance carriers;

20 A representative of the health care insurance agents and brokers;
21 and

22 A Governor's representative.

23 Four members shall be selected to represent the Legislature, to be
24 chosen by each of the four caucuses.

25 The Secretary of the Department of Social and Health Services and
26 the Administrator of the Washington State Health Care Authority shall
27 serve as ex officio members of the working group; and

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Health Care Insurance Options
29 Working Group hereby created be responsible for examining the health
30 care insurance system in the State of Washington and for the
31 development of recommendations for its improvement. The working group
32 shall prepare a report including its findings and recommendations and
33 transmit this report to the Legislature and the Governor no later than
34 January 1, 2004.

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