
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 4403

State of Washington

58th Legislature

2003 Regular Session

By House Committee on Appropriations (originally sponsored by Representatives Schual-Berke, Skinner, Cody, Hankins, Clibborn, Moeller, Pflug, Morrell, Campbell, Simpson, Conway, Santos and Upthegrove)

READ FIRST TIME 03/10/03.

1 WHEREAS, Access to health care services is an unavoidable need of
2 all human beings; and

3 WHEREAS, The primary method used to pay for care is health
4 insurance whether financed by private or public funds; 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 and local governments; 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, Employers, whether large or small, public or private, are
13 finding it increasingly difficult to find and provide health care
14 benefits to 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

1 WHEREAS, Health insurance carriers struggle to remain competitive
2 in an increasingly complex market;

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

6 The following members are to be appointed jointly by the speaker of
7 the House of Representatives and the president of the Senate:

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

10 A representative of small businesses, to be selected from a list of
11 nominees submitted by the national federation of independent business
12 and the independent business association;

13 Two representatives of health care consumers, one who shall
14 represent people with individual health insurance, and one who shall
15 represent the interests of people without health insurance;

16 Two representatives of organized labor, one representing a trust
17 that purchases insurance through a Taft-Hartley plan, to be selected in
18 consultation with the Washington State Labor Council;

19 Three members selected to represent health care providers,
20 including a hospital representative, a licensed physician, and a rural
21 health care provider, selected in consultation with appropriate health
22 care provider organizations;

23 Two representatives of health insurance carriers; and

24 The Insurance Commissioner, who shall serve as the cochair of the
25 working group and shall, in addition, be responsible for coordinating
26 its administrative and ministerial duties.

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

29 One of the consumer representatives shall serve as the cochair of
30 the working group, to be elected by the members of the working group.

31 The Secretary of the Department of Social and Health Services, the
32 Secretary of the Department of Health, and the Administrator of the
33 Washington State Health Care Authority shall serve as ex officio
34 members of the working group; and

35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Health Care Access Options Working
36 Group hereby created be responsible for examining the privately and
37 publicly funded health care insurance system in the State of Washington
38 and for the development of recommendations for its improvement. The

1 working group shall determine what should be the appropriate levels and
2 delivery of services in Washington. The underserved areas of
3 Washington and the total aspect of the delivery of health care in
4 Washington, including telemedicine shall also be reviewed. The working
5 group shall prepare a report of its findings regarding health insurance
6 laws in other states that are providing greater choice, more
7 participating insurance carriers offering health insurance, and greater
8 price flexibility as compared to Washington state. The working group
9 shall seek testimony and information from a broad range of health care
10 stakeholders, and actively solicit public improvement in a community
11 meeting process to build a consensus on the values to be used as a
12 guide to improving the privately and publicly funded health care
13 system. The working group shall review the recommendations of previous
14 health care system analyses. The working group is authorized to
15 establish subcommittees and technical advisory committees as needed to
16 carry out its responsibilities. The working group shall seek grant
17 funds for the community meeting process, and is encouraged to
18 coordinate its efforts with ongoing efforts such as those of the
19 Washington health foundation. The working group shall prepare a report
20 including its findings and recommendations and transmit this report to
21 the Legislature and the Governor no later than January 1, 2005.

22 If specific funding, referencing this concurrent resolution by
23 number, is not provided in the biennial appropriations act by June 30,
24 2003, this concurrent resolution is null and void.

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