

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4012

58th Legislature
2003 Regular Session

Passed by the House April 22, 2003
Yeas 97 Nays 0

Speaker of the House of Representatives

Passed by the Senate April 14, 2003
Yeas 48 Nays 0

President of the Senate

Approved

Governor of the State of Washington

CERTIFICATE

I, Cynthia Zehnder, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4012** as passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate on the dates hereon set forth.

Chief Clerk

FILED

**Secretary of State
State of Washington**

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4012

AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE

Passed Legislature - 2003 Regular Session

State of Washington 58th Legislature 2003 Regular Session

By Representatives Miloscia, Delvin, Dickerson, Boldt, Chase, Moeller, Edwards, Haigh, Pettigrew, Benson, Voloria, Kagi and Schual-Berke

Read first time 02/10/2003. Referred to Committee on Children & Family Services.

1 TO THE HONORABLE LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITIES OF THE COUNTIES AND LOCAL
2 GOVERNMENTS OF WASHINGTON STATE AND TO THE SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT
3 OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES:

4 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of
5 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled, respectfully
6 represent and petition as follows:

7 WHEREAS, The effect of child sexual abuse on victims is devastating
8 and the subsequent investigation, prosecution, and advocacy involving
9 child victims should be implemented in a manner so as to not further
10 traumatize victims; and

11 WHEREAS, State guidelines and protocols have been established
12 pursuant to chapter 389, Laws of 1999 (Senate Bill No. 5127); and

13 WHEREAS, Children's Advocacy Centers are a multidisciplinary
14 private-public partnership designed to improve outcomes for child
15 victims of sexual abuse; and

16 WHEREAS, The purposes of Children's Advocacy Centers are to:

17 (1) Develop, achieve, and maintain interagency and
18 interprofessional cooperation and coordination in the investigation,
19 treatment, and prosecution of intrafamilial and extrafamilial child
20 sexual abuse cases;

1 (2) Obtain evidence useful for both criminal prosecution as well as
2 protection action in civil proceedings;

3 (3) Reduce to the absolute minimum the number of interviews of
4 child sexual abuse victims so as to minimize revictimization of the
5 child;

6 (4) Coordinate the medical and therapeutic treatment program for
7 child sexual abuse victims and their nonoffending family members;

8 (5) Provide for a multidisciplinary team and case management
9 approach which is focused first on the alleged or suspected child
10 sexual abuse victim's needs and conditions, second on the family
11 members who are supportive of the child and whose interests are
12 consistent with the best interests of the child, and third on law
13 enforcement and prosecutorial needs;

14 (6) Provide for training and continued education of skilled
15 professional interviewers and investigators of child sexual abuse
16 victims; and

17 (7) Serve as a focus of information and referral for child sexual
18 abuse; and

19 WHEREAS, In recognition that child abuse is a complex problem,
20 Children's Advocacy Centers may also investigate cases involving other
21 forms of child abuse and neglect;

22 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully encourage counties,
23 local governments, and the Department of Social and Health Services to
24 help facilitate the creation and operation of Children's Advocacy
25 Centers which are members of the National Children's Alliance, and to
26 help ensure the participation of their relevant employees in these
27 Centers, to improve outcomes for child victims of sexual abuse;

28 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
29 transmitted to the legislative authorities of the counties and local
30 governments of Washington State and to the Secretary of the Department
31 of Social and Health Services.

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