
SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8010

State of Washington

58th Legislature

2003 Regular Session

By Senators McAuliffe, Stevens, Regala, Franklin, Keiser, Eide, Kohl-Welles, Winsley, Shin and Rasmussen

Read first time 01/27/2003. Referred to Committee on Children & Family Services & Corrections.

1 TO THE HONORABLE DENNIS BRADDOCK, SECRETARY OF THE WASHINGTON
2 DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, AND TO THE HONORABLE TERRY
3 BERGESON, SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION:

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, Child abuse and neglect continues to be a significant
8 problem in Washington; and

9 WHEREAS, Child abuse and neglect impose on Washington's people and
10 governments significant societal and fiscal costs that result from
11 trauma, impairment of personal and physical development of victims, and
12 the need for investigation, interventions, and family disruption; and

13 WHEREAS, Direct economic costs reflect expenditures incurred at the
14 local and state government levels by the child welfare system as well
15 as the judicial, law enforcement, health, and mental health systems in
16 responding to abused and neglected children and their families; and

17 WHEREAS, Direct costs include expenses associated with
18 hospitalization and medical services provided to treat injuries
19 resulting from abuse; child protective services and police

1 investigations; foster care and other out-of-home placement services
2 for maltreated children; and family preservation, rehabilitation, and
3 treatment programs; and

4 WHEREAS, Indirect costs reflect the long-term economic consequences
5 of child maltreatment in such areas as special education, mental
6 health, substance abuse, teen pregnancy, welfare dependency, domestic
7 violence, homelessness, juvenile delinquency, and adult criminality;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, Effective prevention programs that promote the safety and
10 well-being of children and families hold potential for lessening the
11 suffering and trauma experienced by children and greatly reducing
12 societal and economic costs; and

13 WHEREAS, There are a number of nongovernmental agencies that exist
14 to improve child protection through education and support; and

15 WHEREAS, Some nongovernmental agencies offer classes for children
16 and parents that can significantly reduce the likelihood of children
17 being bullied, molested, or abducted;

18 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the
19 Secretary of Social and Health Services and the Superintendent of
20 Public Instruction shall consult with one another and appropriate
21 nongovernmental agencies dedicated to the reduction of child abuse and
22 neglect and identify optimal methods for annually providing information
23 to school districts about programs offered by such organizations that
24 have demonstrated outcomes that reduce or prevent child abuse or
25 neglect and provide links to such organizations on the web site of the
26 office of the superintendent of public instruction.

27 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
28 transmitted to the Secretary of Social and Health Services and the
29 Superintendent of Public Instruction.

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