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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8010**

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**State of Washington**

**58th Legislature**

**2003 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Committee on Children & Family Services & Corrections  
(originally sponsored by Senators McAuliffe, Stevens, Regala,  
Franklin, Keiser, Eide, Kohl-Welles, Winsley, Shin and Rasmussen)

READ FIRST TIME 02/24/03.

1 TO THE HONORABLE DENNIS BRADDOCK, SECRETARY OF THE WASHINGTON  
2 DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, TO THE HONORABLE TERRY  
3 BERGESON, SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION, AND TO THE HONORABLE  
4 LAURA PORTER, DIRECTOR OF THE WASHINGTON STATE FAMILY POLICY COUNCIL:

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

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

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

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

18 WHEREAS, Direct costs include expenses associated with  
19 hospitalization and medical services provided to treat injuries  
20 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 focus on maximizing  
10 individual and family strengths, building a network of formal and  
11 informal support, and increasing awareness of behaviors and choices  
12 that lead to a safe, self-sufficient, healthy, and secure life; 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, the Superintendent of Public  
20 Instruction, and the Director of the Washington State Family Policy  
21 Council shall consult with one another and appropriate nongovernmental  
22 agencies dedicated to the reduction of child abuse and neglect and  
23 identify optimal methods for annually providing information to school  
24 districts about programs offered by such organizations that have  
25 demonstrated outcomes that reduce or prevent child abuse or neglect and  
26 provide links to such organizations on the web site of the office of  
27 the superintendent of public instruction.

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

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