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HOUSE BILL 1427

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State of Washington

59th Legislature

2005 Regular Session

By Representatives Roberts, Hinkle, Schual-Berke, Roach, Darneille, Clibborn, Dickerson, P. Sullivan, Kagi, Pettigrew, O'Brien, Williams, Ormsby, Morrell, Chase, Santos and Haigh

Read first time 01/24/2005. Referred to Committee on Health Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to postpartum depression; adding new sections to  
2 chapter 43.121 RCW; and making an appropriation.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 43.121 RCW  
5 to read as follows:

6 The legislature finds that postpartum depression is a serious  
7 condition that affects women of all ages, economic status, and racial  
8 and ethnic backgrounds. Postpartum depression includes a range of  
9 physical and emotional changes that many mothers can have following the  
10 birth of a child, which can be treated with medication and counseling.  
11 If untreated, however, postpartum depression can lead to further  
12 depression, self-destructive behavior, or even suicide, as well as  
13 child abuse, neglect, or death of the infant or other siblings.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.121 RCW  
15 to read as follows:

16 The council shall conduct a proactive, public information and  
17 communication outreach campaign concerning the significance, signs, and  
18 treatment of postpartum depression.

1       The public information campaign may, within available funds,  
2 include production and distribution of a brochure and communication by  
3 electronic media, telephone hotlines, and existing parenting education  
4 events funded by the council.

5       NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 3.** The sum of twenty-five thousand dollars, or  
6 as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated from the general  
7 fund to the children's trust fund for the fiscal year ending June 30,  
8 2006, to carry out the purposes of this act.

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