
HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4038

State of Washington 59th Legislature 2006 Regular Session

By Representatives Hinkle and Cody

Read first time . Referred to .

1 TO THE HONORABLE GEORGE W. BUSH, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,
2 AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF
3 REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
4 UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED:

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, Diabetes is now widely recognized as one of the top public
9 health threats facing our nation today and affects more than 18 million
10 Americans. In 2002, diabetes accounted for 132 billion dollars in
11 direct and indirect health care costs; and

12 WHEREAS, Diabetes now affects nearly 1.4 million Washington
13 residents: Over 298,000 people in Washington have been diagnosed with
14 diabetes; over 126,000 people have undiagnosed diabetes; and over
15 963,000 people have prediabetes; and

16 WHEREAS, People who have diabetes need skills to manage their
17 diabetes and skills to help them stay active in their lives. This
18 training is central to diabetes prevention and care; and

19 WHEREAS, Chronic disease self-management programs have a proven

1 success rate, allowing persons with diabetes to better control their
2 diabetes; and

3 WHEREAS, Persons living with diabetes who are properly trained with
4 self-management skills are better able to prevent the deadly
5 complications of diabetes, which can include heart disease, stroke,
6 blindness, lower extremity amputation, and kidney failure; and

7 WHEREAS, Certified diabetes educators are highly trained
8 multidisciplinary health care professionals dedicated to delivering
9 quality diabetes self-management training; and

10 WHEREAS, Evidence has shown that access to a certified diabetes
11 educator improves the management of diabetes, a chronic illness that
12 requires a high level of maintenance; and

13 WHEREAS, Certified diabetes educators teach people with diabetes
14 how to maintain the daily rigors of diet, exercise, meal planning,
15 medication monitoring, healthy coping skills, and other factors
16 necessary to control the disease; and

17 WHEREAS, Certified diabetes educators are also on the front line of
18 the efforts to promote prevention of diabetes; and

19 WHEREAS, Congress recognized the value of diabetes self-management
20 training when it began covering the benefit in the Balanced Budget Act
21 of 1997. At that time, most certified diabetes educators worked in a
22 hospital setting and were able to bill Medicare for their services
23 through the hospital's provider number. Unfortunately, during these
24 tough economic times, hospitals are closing their diabetes education
25 programs at a rate of two to five per month. This leaves diabetes
26 educators without an avenue to provide or bill for diabetes education -
27 services which are desperately needed to keep up with the growing
28 number of people diagnosed with diabetes each day; and

29 WHEREAS, Certified diabetes educators have received extensive
30 training in diabetes management. They have met all criteria for
31 initial certification, including a prerequisite qualifying professional
32 credential in a specified health care profession, have professional
33 practice experience in diabetes self-management training that includes
34 one thousand hours of diabetes teaching, have passed a national
35 examination offered by a certifying body recognized as entitled to
36 grant certification to diabetes educators, and are required to renew
37 the certification every five years;

1 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully request that the
2 United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate
3 enact Senate Bill 626 and House Bill 3612, known as the "Diabetes Self-
4 Management Training Act." The Act will increase access to diabetes
5 care by adding certified diabetes educators to the current list of
6 Medicare providers, thereby making certified diabetes educators
7 billable providers.

8 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
9 transmitted to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United
10 States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the
11 House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of
12 Washington.

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