
HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4041

State of Washington 59th Legislature 2006 Regular Session

By Representatives O'Brien, Rodne, Lovick, Pearson, Miloscia, Sells, Clements, Strow, Hasegawa, Alexander, Darneille, Kirby and Santos

Read first time . Referred to .

1 TO THE HONORABLE CHRISTINE GREGOIRE, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF
2 WASHINGTON, AND TO THE LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY OF EACH COUNTY, AND TO THE
3 COUNCIL ON AGING, AND TO EACH MEMBER OF CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF
4 WASHINGTON:

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, Washington's population age 65 and over, estimated at
9 696,555 in 2004, is expected to reach 812,200 by 2010, 1.2 million by
10 2020 and over 1.6 million by 2030; and

11 WHEREAS, There needs to be a new holistic approach which changes
12 the planning system from the current narrow focus on managing
13 dependency for vulnerable older people to promote inclusion and active
14 aging for the older population as a whole; and

15 WHEREAS, This new approach must enable older people, both as
16 individuals and collectively, to be directly engaged as equal partners
17 in decision making and planning services that affect their lives; and

18 WHEREAS, Change that enhances older adults' quality of life will
19 improve conditions for everyone because elder friendly communities are
20 good places for people of all ages to live; and

1 WHEREAS, Implementing change that enhances older adults' quality of
2 life will require a commitment from people of all ages, and the result
3 will be a community that is friendly for old and young alike;

4 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the
5 executive branch of the State of Washington and the legislative
6 authorities of each county promote a comprehensive, statewide effort
7 that will engage the public and private sectors to: (1) Celebrate
8 older age, recognize the value of older people, and adequately respect
9 their contributions to society, both individually and as a whole; (2)
10 encourage people of all ages to prepare for retirement and old age; (3)
11 develop "age sensitive" service infrastructures that support people as
12 they age; (4) establish and adapt existing services to recognize and
13 accommodate the needs of older adults; (5) build and adapt physical
14 infrastructures that support people as they age; (6) promote creative
15 ways for the state's aging population to utilize their talents, skills,
16 and experience in both paid and unpaid roles; (7) promote flexibility
17 in the workplace to accommodate and support the vital role played by
18 family caregivers; and (8) promote the health and well-being of older
19 persons.

20 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
21 transmitted to the Honorable Christine Gregoire, Governor of the State
22 of Washington, the legislative authority of each county, the Council on
23 Aging, and each member of Congress from the State of Washington.

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