
HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4001

State of Washington 61st Legislature 2009 Regular Session

By Representatives O'Brien, McCoy, Roberts, Darneille, Dickerson, Morrell, Lias, Appleton, Simpson, and Moeller

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

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, Washington's population aged 65 and over, estimated at
8 710,501 in 2005, is expected to reach 818,437 by 2010, 1.23 million by
9 2020, and over 1.66 million by 2030; and

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

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

17 WHEREAS, Change that enhances older adults' quality of life will
18 improve conditions for everyone because aging-ready communities are
19 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; and

4 WHEREAS, Forums on preparing for an aging society have been held in
5 Snohomish County and Spokane and are being planned for other
6 communities around the state;

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

23 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
24 transmitted to the Honorable Christine Gregoire, governor of the state
25 of Washington, the legislative authority of each county, and each
26 member of Congress from the state of Washington.

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