
SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8019

State of Washington

61st Legislature

2010 Regular Session

By Senators Prentice, Pridemore, Honeyford, Hobbs, Zarelli, Delvin,
and Keiser

Read first time 01/18/10. Referred to Committee on Health & Long-Term
Care.

1 TO MARY SELECKY, SECRETARY OF THE WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF
2 HEALTH:

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

6 WHEREAS, Cardiovascular disease has, since 1900, been the number
7 one killer in the United States, and one in three persons has some form
8 of cardiovascular disease; and

9 WHEREAS, Diseases of the heart and stroke cause more annual deaths
10 than all forms of cancer, diabetes, chronic liver disease and
11 cirrhosis, suicide, homicide, and human immunodeficiency virus
12 combined; and

13 WHEREAS, Coronary heart disease is so prevalent that one in five
14 deaths is attributable to the disease, every twenty-five seconds
15 someone will suffer from a coronary event, and every minute someone
16 will die from a coronary event; and

17 WHEREAS, The estimated direct and indirect cost of cardiovascular
18 disease in the United States in the year 2009 is \$475.3 billion; and

19 WHEREAS, The economic costs of heart disease and stroke alone are

1 approximately four billion dollars annually for hospitalization and
2 long-term care alone in Washington state; and

3 WHEREAS, Cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death and
4 a major cause of disability not only in the United States but
5 Washington state, and coronary heart disease and stroke are the second
6 and third leading causes of death, after all cancers, and account for
7 thirty-four percent of all deaths; and

8 WHEREAS, In 2007 it was reported that there were 10,958 deaths due
9 to diseases of the heart and 2,681 deaths attributed to cerebrovascular
10 disease in Washington state; and

11 WHEREAS, An average of nineteen women die each day in Washington
12 state from heart disease and stroke; and

13 WHEREAS, Heart disease, stroke, and other cardiovascular diseases
14 are the number one killer of women in Washington state and account for
15 30.1% of all the female deaths in Washington; and

16 WHEREAS, Reported preventable risk factors for heart disease and
17 stroke in Washington state are alarming, with thirty-three percent of
18 adults reporting high cholesterol, twenty-four percent reporting high
19 blood pressure, seven percent with diabetes, seventeen percent
20 currently smoking, sixty percent reporting being overweight, and
21 thirty-six percent reporting insufficient physical activity; and

22 WHEREAS, The number of people over the age of sixty-five in
23 Washington is expected to nearly double by 2030; and the prevalence of
24 cardiovascular disease sharply increases with advancing age; and

25 WHEREAS, Heart disease can now be reduced through governmental
26 policies and through changes in lifestyle and habits;

27 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the
28 Washington State Department of Health examine, in the ordinary course
29 of business, current and prospective programs, treatments, education,
30 and awareness of cardiovascular disease that are needed for a thriving
31 and healthy Washington.

32 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
33 transmitted to Mary Selecky, Secretary of the Washington State
34 Department of Health.

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