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HOUSE BILL 1321

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State of Washington

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

By Representatives Robinson, Ryu, Cody, Riccelli, Farrell, S. Hunt, Fitzgibbon, Carlyle, Tharinger, Goodman, Ortiz-Self, Bergquist, Dunshee, Moscoso, Appleton, Sells, Pollet, Reykdal, Walkinshaw, Jinkins, Senn, Wylie, Ormsby, Lytton, Hudgins, Tarleton, Moeller, Sawyer, Fey, Gregerson, and Stanford

Read first time 01/19/15. Referred to Committee on Health Care & Wellness.

1 AN ACT Relating to the intent that all Washington residents have  
2 health coverage; and adding a new section to chapter 74.09 RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 74.09  
5 RCW to read as follows:

6 (1) The legislature finds that:

7 (a) Washington's families, individuals, communities, and local  
8 economies thrive when every resident has access to health coverage  
9 and services;

10 (b) The passage of the federal patient protection and affordable  
11 care act offered the potential to extend coverage to many of the  
12 forty-seven million nonelderly uninsured persons nationwide,  
13 including one million uninsured Washingtonians. Washington state has  
14 made significant and historic progress in providing coverage to  
15 uninsured adults, children, and families under the federal patient  
16 protection and affordable care act;

17 (c) Even after the successful and full implementation of the  
18 federal patient protection and affordable care act, approximately ten  
19 percent of Washingtonians will remain uninsured, and even more will  
20 remain underinsured;

1 (d) Too many Washingtonians remain without health care coverage  
2 or services and find themselves uninsured or underinsured due to the  
3 lack of affordable coverage options, while other residents are at  
4 risk of losing adequate health care coverage or cannot afford to  
5 renew or maintain existing coverage;

6 (e) Small businesses struggle to afford to pay for health care  
7 coverage and still too many low-income individuals and small  
8 businesses bear an inequitable health care coverage burden;

9 (f) The cost of family health care coverage premiums have  
10 increased more than seventy percent in the last decade and over eight  
11 thousand individuals lost health coverage during 2014 due to the  
12 failure to pay premiums for their health benefit exchange plans; and

13 (g) The state's uncompensated care burden is nearly one billion  
14 dollars annually which results in increased costs for the insured,  
15 and many individuals and families are living with medical debt due to  
16 illness or injury.

17 (2) It is the intent of the legislature that all residents of  
18 Washington state have accessible, affordable, and comprehensive  
19 health care coverage by 2020.

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