
SENATE BILL 5806

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

By Senators Jayapal, Frockt, Keiser, Cleveland, Conway, Litzow, Rivers, Darneille, and Angel

Read first time 02/03/15. Referred to Committee on Health Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to equitable access to highly effective
2 contraception for patients enrolled in a medicaid-funded plan; adding
3 a new section to chapter 74.09 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that nearly half of
6 all pregnancies in Washington are unplanned. The legislature also
7 finds that research demonstrates that women with unplanned
8 pregnancies receive less prenatal care and are at higher risk for
9 premature delivery and delivering a child with a low birth weight or
10 neurological disorders that have been linked to poor academic
11 performance. The legislature also finds that more than half of all
12 births in Washington are covered by publicly funded health plans and
13 programs. The legislature finds further that Washington has a long
14 and consistent history of promoting equitable access to
15 contraceptives regardless of family income. The legislature also
16 finds that long-acting reversible contraception is the most effective
17 and efficient form of birth control and planning, with a failure rate
18 of less than one percent. The legislature finds further that reduced
19 reimbursement rates for long-acting reversible contraception
20 unintentionally may create an incentive for the use of less effective
21 hormonal birth control methods, resulting in patients with medicaid

1 coverage having limited access to the most effective methods of birth
2 control. The legislature also finds that ensuring equitable access to
3 all birth control methods will increase the use of these highly
4 effective methods, resulting in reduced rates of unintended
5 pregnancies and the associated impact to the medicaid budget.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 74.09
7 RCW to read as follows:

8 (1) The authority shall assure that the total medicaid rate paid
9 for the services required for the provision of long-acting reversible
10 contraceptive methods is at least equivalent with the total rate paid
11 for the services required to provide oral contraceptives. The
12 authority shall assure that rates paid for services associated with
13 the provision of contraceptives are adjusted as directed in this
14 section within the medicaid take charge waiver program as well as
15 within the Title XIX medicaid program.

16 (2) The authority shall not reduce the rate for any family
17 planning service to comply with this section and contracts with
18 managed care plans must ensure the rate for any family planning
19 service is not reduced to comply with this section.

20 (3) The authority shall ensure that rates for family planning
21 services are sufficient to support network adequacy standards.

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