SENATE RESOLUTION

8639

By Senators Keiser, Fain, Liias, Wellman, Kuderer, Hunt, Hasegawa, and Rolfes

1      WHEREAS, Auburn dentist Amy Cook has succeeded in creating a
2  thriving dental practice, and has kept an open door to local Medicaid
3  patients despite the low reimbursement rates for her professional
4  dental services; and
5      WHEREAS, Nearly two hundred Washington dentists provided care at
6  no cost to almost two thousand five hundred patients during the 2016
7  four-day, free, volunteer-run health care clinic in Seattle; and
8      WHEREAS, Dependable access to good dental care is an important
9  part of maintaining good overall health status, and prevention of
10 dental disease is also a way to prevent complications for pregnant
11 women and diabetic patients; and
12     WHEREAS, The Washington State Dental Association has adopted a
13 proposal offered by dentist Amy Cook called the "Take 5 Program" to
14 encourage all Washington dentists to accept at least five patients
15 with Medicaid Apple Health dental coverage; and
16     WHEREAS, Washington dentists participating in the Access to Baby
17 and Child Dentistry (ABCD) program, established in 1999, have more
18 than doubled the percentage of Medicaid Apple Health eligible babies,
19 toddlers, and preschoolers who receive preventive dental care; and
20     WHEREAS, The Washington State Dental Association has also adopted
21 a resolution supporting continued eligibility in the ABCD program for
22 patients with developmental disabilities who may be unable to
23 cooperate in a traditional, adult dental setting;

1    NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State Senate
2 recognize the valuable role played by the hundreds of Washington
3 dentists who promote access to dental care by volunteering their
4 services to the uninsured, and by treating patients with special
5 needs and those with Medicaid dental insurance; and
6    BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be
7 immediately transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to the
8 Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities.

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