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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2943**

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**State of Washington**

**59th Legislature**

**2006 Regular Session**

**By** House Committee on Health Care (originally sponsored by Representatives Cody, Curtis, Morrell, Campbell, Green, Clibborn, Kessler, Serben, Rodne, Roach, Moeller, Buri, Pearson, McCune, Appleton, Kenney, Hasegawa and Dunn)

READ FIRST TIME 02/03/06.

1 AN ACT Relating to health care provider contracting; adding a new  
2 section to chapter 48.43 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 48.43 RCW  
5 to read as follows:

6 (1) Every health carrier, insurer, and other organization engaged  
7 in the business of creating provider networks shall comply with the  
8 provisions of this section in selecting and contracting with health  
9 care providers. For the purpose of this section, "contractor" refers  
10 to health carriers, insurers, and other organizations engaged in the  
11 business of creating provider networks.

12 (2) Contractors may not discriminate against various classes of  
13 health care practitioners by adopting health care network selection and  
14 credentialing standards that permit selection and credentialing of  
15 clinics of only one or certain classes of practitioners. For example  
16 and not as a limitation of this subsection, if a contractor permits a  
17 clinic comprising physicians and nurses to contract on a clinic rather  
18 than upon an individual basis, the contractor must permit a clinic

1 comprising chiropractors and licensed massage therapists to contract on  
2 a clinic rather than upon an individual basis.

3 (3) Contractors may not refuse to contract with a provider or  
4 providers who purchase the practice of an existing contracted provider  
5 if the purchasing provider or providers otherwise meet the  
6 credentialing standards of the contractor.

7 (4) Contractors may not refuse to contract with a provider who  
8 works as an employee of a contracted provider if the employee otherwise  
9 meets the credentialing standards of the contractor.

10 (5) No contractor may directly or indirectly require a health care  
11 provider to participate in all plans, programs, and health care  
12 arrangements as a condition for participating in any of the  
13 contractor's other plans, programs, or health care arrangements. For  
14 example and not as a limitation of this subsection, a contractor may  
15 not require a provider who has agreed to furnish care to enrollees of  
16 a health plan to also participate in a discount program for uninsured  
17 health care services or to participate in a property casualty insurance  
18 program.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The insurance commissioner may adopt rules  
20 necessary to implement this act.

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