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SENATE BILL 5596

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State of Washington                      60th Legislature                      2007 Regular Session

By Senators Franklin, Benton, Kline, Poulsen, Keiser and Roach

Read first time 01/25/2007. Referred to Committee on Health & Long-Term Care.

1            AN ACT Relating to discrimination against chiropractors; adding a  
2 new section to chapter 48.43 RCW; providing an effective date; and  
3 declaring an emergency.

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

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

7            (1) For the purpose of this section, "contractor" means third-party  
8 payor as defined in RCW 70.02.010 and any organization engaged in the  
9 business of creating health care provider networks for use by a third-  
10 party payor.

11            (2) Contractors may not develop and employ provider payment  
12 methodologies that discriminate against chiropractors by setting  
13 differing payment formulas for a chiropractor's services than for a  
14 different profession's services when the contractor is reimbursing for  
15 the same type of health care services. The contractor may not have a  
16 methodology that would pay chiropractors less than any other provider  
17 for the same payment code.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 2.**    This act is necessary for the immediate  
2    preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the  
3    state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect  
4    July 1, 2007, and applies to all provider contracts that are executed,  
5    continued, or renewed on and after January 1, 2008, and to all  
6    reimbursement of services by contractors on and after January 1, 2008.

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