

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 4200

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

Note: The ballot title and explanatory statement were written by the Attorney General as required by law. The complete text of House Joint Resolution 4200 begins on page 32.

Vote cast by the 1993 Legislature on final passage:

House: Yeas, 67; Nays, 31; Absent or not voting, 0.

Senate: Yeas, 43; Nays, 4; Excused, 2; Absent or not voting, 0.

Statement for

THE HEALING PROCESS

When facing the physical, emotional and mental challenges of an illness, many people find solace, comfort, and improved healing through their faith and beliefs. Hospitalized patients and their families have repeatedly demonstrated their need to confide in someone of their choice who will listen, counsel, and provide comfort in times of distress. Providing for such needs leads to better healthcare outcomes.

CHAPLAIN AS MEMBER OF HEALTH CARE TEAM

Chaplains in public hospitals arrange for spiritual advisors of choice when requested by a patient or family. The chaplain may also provide personal support for the patient, such as locating a lost friend or family member. In emergencies, a hospital chaplain is available immediately, just as a military chaplain is available to soldiers.

Public hospital chaplains are required by professional ethics to respect patients' spiritual preferences, including those who want no spiritual counseling. The role of a hospital chaplain is to respond to patient or family requests with other health professionals to meet the patient's individual needs.

CURRENT LAW

Volunteer community chaplains are in shrinking supply and frequently unavailable when needed. In nearly half the hospitals in Washington, the public hospitals legal ability to hire chaplains to provide patients such essential services

Official Ballot Title:

Shall counties and public hospital districts be permitted to employ chaplains for their hospitals, health care facilities, and hospices?

has been confusing. Although state prisons and mental institutions may hire chaplains, similar authority for public hospitals is unclear.

THE ISSUE

Public hospitals are asking voters for clear approval to hire chaplains. The chaplains would arrange for spiritual advisors when requested by a patient or a patient's family, and be available immediately in an emergency.

For more information, call (206) 281-7211.

Rebuttal of Statement against

House Joint Resolution 4200 will not result in particular religious beliefs being used as a standard for hiring decisions, for this would be illegal under anti-discrimination laws and our Constitution. Further, it is not government-sponsored religion, therefore it is not a violation of separation of church and state. The precedent of hiring chaplains for state institutions has already been set. Why should this be denied to the sick and dying in our public hospitals?

Voters Pamphlet Statement Prepared by:

ROSA FRANKLIN, State Senator; LINDA JOHNSON, State Representative; IRV NEWHOUSE, State Senator.

Advisory Committee: CAROLE OELJEN, Vice President, Washington State Nurse Association; ANNA H. CHAVELLE, M.D., President, Washington State Medical Association; GREG VIGDOR, Executive Director, Association of Washington Public Hospital Districts; LEO GREENAWALT, President, Washington State Hospital Association; PARI GILL, Nominating Chair, Society for Social Work Directors in Health Care.

The law as it now exists:

The state Constitution prohibits the use of any public money or property for religious worship, exercise, or instruction; or for the support of any religious establishment. However, the current Constitution contains an exception permitting the state to employ chaplains for its custodial, correctional, and mental institutions; at the discretion of the legislature. Counties and public hospital districts are not covered by this exception.

The effect of House Joint Resolution 4200, if approved into law:

The effect of approving this constitutional amendment would be to extend to counties and public hospital districts the authority to employ chaplains for their hospital districts, health care facilities, and hospices, at the discretion of the legislature. In effect, the exception now provided for chaplains in certain state institutions would be extended to hospitals and other health care facilities owned and operated by counties or public hospital districts. The legislature would decide whether and how to implement this change.

Statement against

Don't be misled by good intentions or emotional appeals. Public hospitals, using your tax dollars, will have to make personnel decisions based on religion. How can this be done fairly? It can't.

HJR 4200 is an unwise and dangerous precedent. Washington state citizens have always respected and understood the need to keep religion and government separate. HJR 4200 is the wrong step toward mixing these two institutions.

There is no need for HJR 4200. Any taxpayer-supported medical facility can already hire professional staff to provide emotional support in time of need. HJR 4200 goes far beyond what is necessary or appropriate. Public hospitals will spend public funds—your tax dollars—to select one religion over others. We should not use tax dollars to eliminate the distinction between church and state.

Please keep our history in mind. Remember one reason why people came here was for the right to practice their beliefs free of government dictates. No matter how innocent sounding HJR 4200 is, the fact remains it is government sponsored religion. And once started, where does this stop? Will counties and cities be required to select one religion to support their employees or be on-site for persons injured in car accidents?

There is a better way than HJR 4200. Tell your hospital administrators to make their decisions based on merit and patient needs, not religious preference.

Keep Washington state where it belongs—in the forefront of separation of church and state, not taxpayer-supported pulpits.

Rebuttal of Statement for

Using your tax dollars to eliminate the separation between religion and government is a bad idea. Doing so when the "problem" isn't caused by government is even worse.

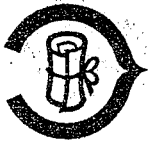
The proponents claim there aren't enough volunteer chaplains for hospitals. Does that require spending your money making religious-based personnel decisions? The churches should fix this problem, not taxpayers.

Public hospitals already hire professional staff to provide emotional support. HJR 4200 is an unnecessary use of taxpayer's money.

Voters Pamphlet Statement Prepared by:

AL WILLIAMS, State Senator; MIKE HEAVEY, State Representative.

Advisory Committee: REVEREND BRUCE CLEAR; MONICA ZÜCKER.



COMPLETE TEXT OF House Joint Resolution 4200

BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON, IN LEGISLATIVE SESSION ASSEMBLED:

THAT, At the next general election to be held in this state there shall be submitted to the qualified voters of the state for their approval and ratification, or rejection, an amendment to Article I, section 11 of the Constitution of the state of Washington to read as follows:

Article I, section 11. Absolute freedom of conscience in all matters of religious sentiment, belief and worship, shall be guaranteed to every individual, and no one shall be molested or disturbed in person or property on account of religion; but the liberty of conscience hereby secured shall not be so construed as to excuse acts of licentiousness or justify practices inconsistent with the peace and safety of the state. No public money or property shall be appropriated for or applied to any religious worship, exercise or instruction, or the support of any religious establishment. PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That this article shall not be so construed as to forbid the employment by the state of a chaplain for such of the state custodial, correctional, and mental institutions, or by a county's or public hospital district's hospital, health care facility, or hospice, as in the discretion of the legislature may seem justified. No religious qualification shall be required for any public office or employment, nor shall any person be incompetent as a witness or juror, in consequence of his opinion on matters of religion, nor be questioned in any court of justice touching his religious belief to affect the weight of his testimony.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the secretary of state shall cause notice of the foregoing constitutional amendment to be published at least four times during the four weeks next preceding the election in every legal newspaper in the state.

PLEASE NOTE:

To obtain a copy of the preceding and following texts for the state measures in larger print, call the Secretary of State's toll-free hotline -- 1-800-448-4881.



COMPLETE TEXT OF House Joint Resolution 4201

BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON, IN LEGISLATIVE SESSION ASSEMBLED:

THAT, At the next general election to be held in this state there shall be submitted to the qualified voters of the state for their approval and ratification, or rejection, an amendment to Article IV, section 6 of the Constitution of the state of Washington to read as follows:

Article IV, section 6. Superior courts and district courts have concurrent jurisdiction in cases in equity. The superior court shall have original jurisdiction ~~((in all cases in equity and))~~ in all cases at law which involve the title or possession of real property, or the legality of any tax, impost, assessment, toll, or municipal fine, and in all other cases in which the demand or the value of the property in controversy amounts to three thousand dollars or as otherwise determined by law, or a lesser sum in excess of the jurisdiction granted to justices of the peace and other inferior courts, and in all criminal cases amounting to felony, and in all cases of misdemeanor not otherwise provided for by law; of actions of forcible entry and detainer; of proceedings in insolvency; of actions to prevent or abate a nuisance; of all matters of probate, of divorce, and for annulment of marriage; and for such special cases and proceedings as are not otherwise provided for. The superior court shall also have original jurisdiction in all cases and of all proceedings in which jurisdiction shall not have been by law vested exclusively in some other court; and said court shall have the power of naturalization and to issue papers therefor. They shall have such appellate jurisdiction in cases arising in justices' and other inferior courts in their respective counties as may be prescribed by law. They shall always be open, except on nonjudicial days, and their process shall extend to all parts of the state. Said courts and their judges shall have power to issue writs of mandamus, quo warranto, review, certiorari, prohibition, and writs of habeas corpus, on petition by or on behalf of any person in actual custody in their respective counties. Injunctions and writs of prohibition and of habeas corpus may be issued and served on legal holidays and nonjudicial days.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the secretary of state shall cause notice of the foregoing constitutional amendment to be published at least four times during the four weeks next preceding the election in every legal newspaper in the state.