

1 **Washington State Blue Ribbon Commission on Health Care Costs and Access**

2 **July 27, 2006**

3 **Problem Statement:**

4 Too many Washingtonians are, or could become, uninsured, underinsured, or otherwise
5 have inadequate access to health care. Health care is increasingly unaffordable to
6 individuals and families, employers, and state government. Yet despite unsustainable
7 growth in spending, we are not as healthy as we could be -- devoting too little of what is
8 spent to prevention and health promotion, often not getting the right care at the right time,
9 and failing to take responsibility for our own well-being.

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11 **Vision Statement & Goals:**

12 In five years, we envision a system in which every Washingtonian is able to obtain
13 needed health care at an affordable price. The care is safe, efficient, cost-effective,
14 patient-centered, prevention-oriented, and materially improves the health of the person
15 receiving it. This system is equitable, acknowledges that resources are limited, and
16 reflects the shared responsibility of individuals, communities, employers, and state and
17 federal governments in ensuring our population's health.

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19 To realize this vision, we will achieve the following goals by 2012:

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21 In improving access:

- 22 • All Washingtonians will have health coverage that provides access to effective
23 care by 2012, with all children having such coverage by 2010.

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25 In improving health:

- 26 • Washington will be one of the top ten healthiest states in the nation
27 (this includes key categories such as diabetes prevention & control, immunization,
28 well child care, heart disease prevention & control, obesity, asthma prevention
29 and control, and smoking).
30 • Population health indicators will be consistent across race, gender and income
31 levels throughout the state.

1 In improving affordability:

- 2 • Reduce the annual rate of increase in total health care spending to less than the
3 growth in personal income.
- 4 • Reduce the annual rate of growth in health insurance costs to individuals and
5 small businesses to less than the rate of general inflation.
- 6 • Reduce the annual rate of growth in state health care expenditures to less than the
7 rate of growth in state revenues.
- 8 • Reduce by 50% the number of Washingtonians, including employers and
9 individuals, who cite the expense of health insurance as a reason for declining
10 coverage.
- 11 • Reduce the number of health-related personal bankruptcies by 50%.
- 12 • Uncompensated care expenses should not exceed the estimate for 2005 of \$726
13 million for uninsured individuals in Washington State.

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15 In improving quality:

- 16 • Waste, variability and defects (including medical errors) are declining, and
17 compare well with other nations.
- 18 • Washingtonians get the evidence based standard of care 75% of the time.
- 19 • Achieve 100% compliance with evidence-based guidelines for the management of
20 chronic illness.

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22 **Evaluation Criteria:**

23 In making recommendations, the Commission will consider the extent to which a
24 proposed option will further the Commission's stated vision and goals, and is feasible,
25 sustainable, cost-effective, and affordable to those required to pay for it.