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Small Employers To Lose Big With New Health Exchange – ACT NOW

According to the Association of Washington Business (AWB), employers stand to lose big under the health exchange bill approved by the Legislature last week and sent to Governor Gregoire's desk for signature. That is why the WALP Board of Directors has voted in opposition to the legislation, E2SHB 2319, and supports asking Governor Gregoire to veto Sections 6 and 7 of Engrossed Second Substitute House Bill 2319.

Without a veto, E2SHB 2319 will have serious consequences for small employers, including the loss of choice among insurers and health plans, as well as higher costs. Therefore, **if you agree with WALP's opposition to this bill, you are encouraged to immediately call the Governor's office toll free at (800) 562-6000 or e-mail her on her webpage (<http://www.governor.wa.gov/contact/>) asking her to veto Sections 6 and 7 of E2SHB 2319.**

As written, E2SHB 2319 would eliminate employer choice over the type of coverage purchased, effectively reducing the number of insurers offering coverage in our state.

For individuals and employers with fewer than 50 employees, this bill could spell the end of employees' health care coverage. For employers that have chosen a high deductible or catastrophic health plan for themselves and/or their employees, and wish to continue that coverage beyond 2014, this bill will force those employers to purchase that coverage through the new state-based exchange. Those plans will no longer be available on the open market.

Under this bill, insurers that offer catastrophic or high deductible plans will be forced to sell exclusively through the new exchange. That means many insurers will close their plans and leave the state – leaving employers with fewer choices and higher costs!

DON'T LET THE LEGISLATURE TAKE AWAY YOUR HEALTH CARE CHOICES! Call [or e-mail](mailto:info@walp.org) the Governor today and ask for a veto of section 6 of E2SHB 2319. Preserve your choice of health care plans and choice of insurer!

Questions on any of the topics addressed in this "WALP Watch"? Contact the WALP Office at info@walp.org or (425) 967-0729.