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**SENATE BILL 5921**

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**State of Washington**

**66th Legislature**

**2019 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Conway, Walsh, Keiser, Braun, Darneille, Zeiger, Becker, Hunt, and Brown

1 AN ACT Relating to community respite services for people with  
2 developmental disabilities; adding a new section to chapter 43.20A  
3 RCW; creating a new section; providing an effective date; providing  
4 an expiration date; and declaring an emergency.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that:

7 (1) Community respite is short-term, intermittent care to relieve  
8 a family member who is the primary paid care provider. Eighty percent  
9 of children and adults with developmental disabilities in Washington  
10 state live at home with their family. Community respite is one of the  
11 single most important services which help individuals and their  
12 families stay together. However, the rates paid to community respite  
13 providers and the number of respite hours a family can receive per  
14 year have not increased for the past ten years.

15 (2) It is the legislature's goal to assist individuals with  
16 developmental disabilities and their families to increase the rate  
17 paid to community respite providers for participants on the basic  
18 plus waiver and for participants on the individual and family  
19 services waiver by two percent each biennium over the next three  
20 biennia, and increase the annual award amount for people on the basic

1 plus waiver and for people on the individual and family services  
2 waiver by two percent per year over the next three biennia.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.20A  
4 RCW to read as follows:

5 Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this  
6 specific purpose:

7 (1) Beginning July 1, 2019, and ending June 30, 2025, the  
8 reimbursement rate for community respite funded by the developmental  
9 disabilities administration's basic plus waiver and the individual  
10 and family services waiver shall be increased by two percent each  
11 biennium.

12 (2) Beginning July 1, 2019, and ending June 30, 2025, the annual  
13 award amount for community respite funded by the developmental  
14 disabilities administration's basic plus waiver and the individual  
15 and family services waiver shall be increased by two percent each  
16 year.

17 (3) For the purposes of this section, "developmental disabilities  
18 administration" means the developmental disabilities administration  
19 of the department.

20 (4) This section expires June 30, 2025.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act is necessary for the immediate  
22 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of  
23 the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes  
24 effect July 1, 2019.

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