



Washington State
Hospital Association



The 2018 State Legislative Session

What's in Store for Hospitals and Health Care?

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Presenters



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Objectives

- Set the stage: this year's political climate
- Review WSHA legislative priorities:
www.wsha.org/policy-advocacy/state-legislative-agenda/
- Discuss how WSHA members can stay informed and involved in advancing our shared goals



Political Climate

Democratic House and Senate

Context for 2018 Legislative Session

- Tight Budget
- McCleary K-12 Funding
- Slim (Democratic) Majorities



Leadership

- Governor Jay Inslee (D)
 - Easily re-elected to second term
- House Speaker Frank Chopp (D)
 - Maintains narrow majority
 - Rep. Eileen Cody (D) continues as chair of House Health Care
 - Rep. Tim Ormsby (D) continues as chair of House Approps
- Senate Majority Leader Sharon Nelson (D)
 - New narrow majority
 - Sen. Annette Cleveland (D) new chair of Senate Health & Long Term Care
 - Sen. Christine Rolfes (D) new chair of Senate Ways & Means



Legislative Priorities: Guiding Principle

www.wsha.org/policy-advocacy/state-legislative-agenda

Hospitals are anchor institutions in Washington state communities, providing both needed services and stable jobs 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

It's the mission of the Washington State Hospital Association to ensure that all our state's communities have access to high-quality health care.

Legislative Priorities

www.wsha.org/policy-advocacy/state-legislative-agenda/

1. Ensure that hospitals can be stable institutions in their communities, long into the future.
2. Within a safety-focused regulatory environment, maintain the flexibility to respond to changing needs and opportunities to improve care.
3. Make it easier to meet patient needs in lower-cost and non-hospital settings.
4. Advocate for patients and hospital employees.

#1: Ensure hospitals can be stable institutions in their communities, long into the future

Fight Federal Assaults on ACA

- Preserve Medicaid expansion and CHIP funding
- 725,000 Washingtonians have ACA health coverage
- Repeal could drop federal match from 90% to 50%, a state budget impact in the billions
- Move to block grant also hit to state budget

State Individual Market

- Concern about stability; many options being considered

#2: Within a safety-focused regulatory environment, maintain flexibility

- Mandated staffing regulations
- Maintain existing standards for ambulatory surgical centers
- Allow use of non-compete clauses
- Reasonable pharmacy regulations
- Oppose onerous, duplicative or unnecessary reporting requirements



#3: Make it easier to meet patient needs in lower-cost and non-hospital settings

- The state should implement a safety valve in the instance where there are patients needing to be involuntary detained for substance use disorders and there are not enough beds (Ricky's law)
- Fund partial-hospitalization programs for Medicaid patients



#4: Advocate for patients and hospital employees

- Improve informed consent laws for patients
- Increase access to opioid addiction treatment and non-opioid pain management
- Improve staff and patient safety through appropriate weapons policies
- Improve transparency around balance billing
- Allow easier completion of medical advance directives
- Maintain patient privacy around body-worn cameras

#4: Advocate for patients and hospital employees

Charity Care

WSHA legislation:

- gives more information to patients on the availability of assistance
- clarifies confusing processes and definitions
- makes clear that interpreter services obligations apply to patients seeking billing and charity care information

Columbia Legal Services legislation:

- screening every patient and asking for income level at time of service
- presumptive eligibility



WSHA Resources

- Inside Olympia
- Issue Briefs
- WSHA Staff



www.wsha.org/events-resources/newsletters/

Name	Title	Issue Areas
Chris Bandoli ChrisB@wsha.org	Senior Vice President, Government Affairs	Overall advisor, balance billing, insurance stabilization
Chelene Whiteaker CheleneW@wsha.org	Senior Director, Policy Development	Overall advisor, mental health, Ricky's law delay
Andrew Busz AndrewB@wsha.org	Director, Finance	Finance, ambulatory surgical settings, insurance
Ian Corbridge IanC@wsha.org	Director, Patient Safety	Opioids, pharmacy, nurse staffing
Zosia Stanley ZosiaS@wsha.org	Director, Government Affairs	Charity care, informed consent, merger/affiliation
Sheena Tomar SheenaT@wsha.org	Policy Analyst	Medicaid fraud, body cameras in hospitals
Jaqueline Barton True JacquelineB@wsha.org	Director, Rural Programs	Rural issues
Ben Lindekugel BenL@awphd.org	Executive Director, AWPHD	Public agency issues, e.g., sunshine laws

Your Opportunity to Get Involved

Advocate

- Meet with your local legislators and share your story and priorities
- Testify on bills that matter to you
- Call/write/email your elected officials

Communicate

- Share WSHA priorities with your exec team and board
- Talk about these priorities in your community

Donate

- Talk to your management team and board about the importance of WHPAC

Thank You!

Questions? Comments?

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