

# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



## WSHIP BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING JANUARY 13, 2021

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# 2021 WA LEGISLATIVE SESSION

JANUARY 11– APRIL 25, 2021



- Lawmakers have a lot on their plate this session
  - 2021-23 Operating budget & potential new taxes
  - COVID-19 related economic relief & roll out of vaccines
  - Public health
  - Racial equity & law enforcement reform
  - Climate change & potential clean fuel standards
- Senate health care priority bills include health equity zones, drug price increases & health emergency labor standards
- Capitol buildings closed to public & legislator access limited
- 1<sup>st</sup> Day of session: Legislators voted to set rules for session. Committee meetings/comments will be via Zoom & TVW
- Most everything will take longer
- Legislators are being asked to limit bills only to those “urgently needed & ready to go”

# HOUSE BILL 1096

*“Concerning nonmedicare plans offered through the Washington state health insurance pool.”*



- Sponsored by Rep. Schmick & co-sponsored by Rep. Cody
- Removes sunset for WSHIP’s Non-Medicare program
- There is broad support among health care leaders, providers, advocates, carriers & others
- Additional reach-out in progress
- Referred to House Health Care & Wellness Committee January 11. Hearing to be scheduled
- We are also watching closely for any other bills that could potentially impact WSHIP

# WA Health Benefit Exchange & Universal Health Care Work Group



## 2021 Open Enrollment

- January 1, 2021 is the Washington Healthplanfinder coverage effective date for those who enrolled prior to December 15, 2020
- New coverage options included the Cascade (standard) & Cascade Select (public option) plans
- Individual market currently stable & coverage is available in all counties

## Subsidy Study

- Exchange subsidy recommendations submitted to legislature November 2020. Legislators exploring potential funding

## Universal Health Care Work Group

- Final report due to legislature January 8 (not yet publicly available). Earlier preview leaned toward Option A, with Option C (“close the gap” serving as a transitional step – possibly in conjunction with Cascade Care subsidies