

2019 Legislative Session



WSHIP BOARD MEETING MAY 8, 2019

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2019 Legislative Session

- 105-Day session ended on time April 28.
- Legislators worked up to the last day reconciling remaining differences between bills and reaching agreement on a new two-year operating budget.
- Affordability & Access were overarching areas of health policy focus this session.



2019 WSHIP Board Policy Agenda Statement

Affordability & Access ---

Individual Market Concerns:

- *“Health care premiums and out-of-pocket costs are continuing to increase and the WSHIP Board shares the concerns of many about affordability and access. These issues can be especially difficult for high risk individuals who have extremely high-cost and on-going treatment needs.”*
- *“As potential solutions are explored, WSHIP is committed to providing helpful input based on its expertise serving high risk individuals, and working collaboratively with others to develop solutions.”*

“The Board strongly supports collaborative efforts to improve affordability and mitigate costs while sustaining quality of care and access.”



WSHIP 2019 Legislative Session Activities

Enhanced WSHIP Visibility

- Continued to meet with legislators & others to strengthen communication channels.
- Attended bill hearings & work sessions

Provided Information & Education

- Shared WSHIP program updates
- Provided updated WSHIP information sheet
- Responded to inquiries from legislators & OIC

Tracked & Monitored Bills

- Followed legislative bills of potential impact to WSHIP programs & enrollees



2019 Legislative Session Bill Updates

- Surprise Billing (Passed) – Second substitute version of HB 1065 delivered to the Governor. Companion bill SB 5031 did not advance.
- Medicare Supplements - MACRA (Passed) – SB 5032 unanimously passed and has been signed by the Governor. Becomes effective July 28, 2019. No action taken on companion bill HB 1484.
- Public Option - Cascade Care (Passed) – On the second to last day of session, the Conference Committee recommended version of amended SB 5526 passed in a 27 to 21 vote. Companion bill HB 1523 did not move from Senate Rules.
- Universal Health Care (Did not pass) – Second substitute version of SB 5822 was not moved from House Rules and companion bill HB 1877 did not advance.
- Single Payer (Did not pass) – Senate bill SB 5222 did not receive a hearing this session.



Summary of Bills WSHIP Followed

BILL NUMBER	PRIME SPONSOR	DESCRIPTION
SHB 1065 Surprise Billing	Cody OIC Request Bill	Seeks to protect patients from getting an additional bill, after the patient's health plan has paid the normal rate and the patient has paid their portion when they receive medical care for an emergency at an out-of-network emergency hospital or surgery center but receive services from an out-of-network provider.
SB 5031 Surprise Billing	Cleveland OIC Request Bill	
HB 1484 Medicare Supplements (MACRA) SB 5032 Medicare Supplements (MACRA)	Thai OIC Request Bill Cleveland OIC Request Bill	Aligns WA with recent changes to Medicare and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) statutes which seek to prevent overutilization of services. Two key changes are: 1) As of January 1, 2020, new enrollees will no longer be able to purchase a Medicare Supplement Plan which provides coverage for the Part B deductible; and 2) Allow but not require companies to offer a new Plan G with a High Deductible option.
HB 1523 Public Option (Cascade Care) SB 5526 Public Option (Cascade Care)	Cody Governor Request Bill Frocht Governor Request Bill	Seeks to increase the availability of quality, affordable health coverage in the individual market. Key changes include: 1) Requires Health Benefit Exchange to develop standardized health plans; 2) Health Care Authority (HCA) is required to contract with health carriers to offer standardized qualified health plans; and 3) HCA must develop a plan for premium subsidies for individuals purchasing coverage on the Exchange.
HB 1877 Universal Health SB 5822 Universal Health	Macri Randall	Directs Health Care Authority to convene a stakeholder work group on establishing a universal health care system in WA.
SB 5222 Single Payer	Hasegawa	Establishes the Whole WA Health Trust, a single nonprofit health care delivery system and financing entity that seeks to simplify health care financing and administration.



Interim Session & Next Steps

Continue meeting with government leaders, regulators, HBE, providers & others

Meet with legislators in their home districts

Share updated WSHIP information

Learn common thread priorities, interests & concerns