

**2018 AAFP State Legislative Conference State Roundtable
Washington State**

Top Issues in 2018 (* indicates legislation which passed)

Health Care Coverage

SB 5683: Health care for Pacific Islanders residing in Washington*

- Creates a premium assistance program for Washington residents who are citizens of specified Pacific Islands.

SB 6219: Health plan coverage of reproductive health care*

- Establishes contraceptive coverage requirements for health plans.
- Establishes an abortion coverage requirement for health plans covering maternity care.
- Directs the Governor's Interagency Coordinating Council on Health Disparities to do a literature review of disparities in access to reproductive health.

SB 6399: Telemedicine payment parity*

- Directs the collaborative for the advancement of telemedicine to review the concept of telemedicine payment parity, develop recommendations, and report to the legislature.

Public Health/Social Determinants of Health

HB 1570: Homeless housing and assistance*

- Adjusts a document recording surcharge to increase funding to address homelessness.

HB 2578: Ensuring housing options*

- Prohibits landlords from discriminating based on a tenant's source of income.

SB 5553: Preventing suicide by permitting the voluntary waiver of firearm rights*

- Provides a procedure for the voluntary waiver of firearm rights.

HB 1054: Smoking age

- Prohibits the sale of tobacco and vapor products to persons under age 21.

SB 6620: Improving security in schools and the safety of students

- Implements an emergency response and an anonymous reporting system for schools.
- Prohibits a transfer of a semiautomatic rifle absent federal and state background checks.
- Prohibits a person under the age of 21 from purchasing a semiautomatic rifle.

Profession and Practice Issues

HB 2143: Expanding opportunities for higher education students*

- Creates a program to provide low-interest loans to medical students declaring an intention to work in a rural underserved area in Washington.
- Expands the Washington State Opportunity Scholarship to students in eligible advanced degree programs who commit to a required service obligation.

HB 2257: Maintenance of certification*

- Prohibits state licensing boards from requiring that physicians complete a maintenance of certification as a condition of licensure or renewal.

SB 5722: Restricting conversion therapy*

- Makes it unprofessional conduct for a licensed health care provider to perform conversion therapy on a patient under the age of 18.

SB 6522: Noncompetition agreements

- Establishes the conditions in which a noncompetition agreement is enforceable and makes certain types of noncompetition agreements void and unenforceable.
- Creates a presumption that an agreement not to compete for one year or longer is void and unenforceable.

Prescription Drugs/Opioids

HB 1047: Disposal of unwanted medications*

- Requires manufacturers selling drugs in Washington to operate a drug take-back program to collect and dispose of prescription and over-the-counter drugs from residential sources.

HB 2489: Opioid use disorder treatment, prevention, and related services

- Comprehensive bill addressing opioid use disorder prevention and treatment.

SB 6028: The prescription drug monitoring program

- Requires practitioners prescribing an opiate or benzodiazepine to review the patient's controlled substance history in the prescription monitoring program.

SB 6050: Restrictions on prescriptions for opiates

- With some exceptions, practitioners prescribing an opiate to a patient for the first time for outpatient use may prescribe no more than a seven-day supply for patients twenty-one years and older, and a three-day supply for those under twenty- one.

2019

General environment: Based on the results of the August primary, it appears the Democrat's majority in both the Senate and House will grow, perhaps substantially. The legislature's primary responsibility will be adoption of the state's 2019 – 2021 operating budget amidst healthy state revenues. A general priority will be improving the state's inadequate mental health system.

Top issues:

❖ Enhancing primary care

- Medicaid rate increase
- Initial steps towards measuring and increasing the portion of health care spending in the state which goes towards primary care (based on 2018 House of Delegates Resolution)
- Assuring mental health system improvements reflect the critical role of primary care
- Strengthening rural health care

❖ Public health/Social determinants of health

- Foundational public health funding
- Housing/homelessness
- Tobacco 21
- Gun safety
- Health equity

❖ Prescription drugs/Opioids

- Complete and follow-up on work from 2018

❖ Health care coverage and access

- A variety of proposals are expected intended to expand coverage, including development of a "public option" and a single-payer system.