

Health Care is a Human Right - WA:

Policy Framework for 2025 Policy Agenda

Policy Framework

Goals guiding our work

1. Achieve universal health care in WA State and our nation
2. Improve health care affordability and access, while driving down escalating industry profits and controlling prices
3. Advance equity and address social determinants of health, with a particular focus on reducing racial disparities
4. Defend access to health care through existing public programs, including staving off privatization and monopolization in our current healthcare system, while working toward a universal health care system

Criteria we use when “filtering” specific bills/budget items

- Does the issue enhance and support the mission and goals of HCHR? (With specific reference to at least one of HCHR Goals #1-4 above)
- Does the issue have a critical mass of advocates, including a core leadership of organizations within HCHR?
- Is there a clear and realistic strategy to pass or adopt the policy proposal?

2025 Legislative Agenda

The 2025 platform may continue to be refined in alignment with our goals and filtering criteria as the state legislative session and Congress reconvene in 2025. Policy items may meet more than one of HCHR’s four goals, but are listed once for simplicity. More details can be found in our [filtering document](#) and [meeting log](#).

HCHR Goal	State	Federal	Non-Legislative
Universal Health Care	• Support legislative efforts to achieve universal health care (<i>e.g., Washington Health Trust and Joint Memorial asking for federal support for states to implement single payer health systems</i>)	• Support Congressional efforts to expand universal health care (<i>e.g., Medicare For All Act - HR 3421 / S. 1655</i>) • Expand state authority and readiness for state-based universal coverage systems	• Pursue universal coverage through Washington State’s Universal Health Care Commission (UHCC). • Commitment to hold the UHCC accountable and to expedite its work on

		<i>(e.g., State-Based Universal Health Care Act - HR 6720 / S. 4817)</i>	proposing a universal health plan design, including a single-payer version. Engagement in proviso study for consolidating PEBB/SEBB
Affordability & Access	- Ensure availability of affordable coverage options (<i>e.g., Cascade Care subsidies and Medigap guaranteed issue and annual open enrollment</i>) - Ensure equitable access to care in communities, including reproductive care (<i>e.g., Keep Our Care Act</i>) - Support targeted efforts to build health care workforce to address disparities (<i>e.g., prescribing psychologists and conditional scholarships for behavioral health professionals</i>) - Ensure state oversight of health care entity spending (<i>e.g., PEBB/SEBB cost containment</i>) - Align WA's law with the Mental Health Parity Act, including recent finalized federal rules, and WA's ACA benchmark plan for commercial insurance to improve access to MH/BH services.	- Improve access to consumer coverage by continuing enhanced premium tax credits. - Protect reproductive health, gender-affirming care, and ACA protections including Section 1557 on nondiscrimination and preventative services coverage. - Support targeted efforts to build health care workforce to address access shortages (<i>e.g., Bipartisan Primary Care and Health Workforce Act or Lower Costs, More Transparency Act</i>)	Monitor consumer affordability and price control efforts via Washington State's Health Care Cost Transparency Board, the Prescription Drug Affordability Board, and the Exchange's Cascade Care
Equity & Social Determinants	Preserve and advance immigrant health equity (<i>e.g., codify Apple Health Expansion and sustain funding for increased Cascade</i>	Expand health care to immigrants by removing federal eligibility barriers (<i>e.g., Lift the Bar Act</i>)	Monitor legal threats to public programs, such as lawsuits against federal rules (<i>e.g., federal tax credits for</i>

	<i>Care subsidies)</i> • Reduce the burden and impacts of healthcare costs (<i>e.g., prohibit credit reporting of medical debt</i>) • Remove administrative barriers to accessing care and reliance on self-advocacy to get coverage (<i>e.g., medically necessary for behavioral health treatments</i>)		DACA+ population) and reinstatement of public charge policies.
Defending Public Program	• Protect the healthcare safety net amidst proposed threats from budget cuts • Support progressive revenue to prevent cuts of public programs (<i>e.g., wealth tax, high earners payroll tax on employers and Affordable Homes Act - REET 2.0</i>) • Defend Original Medicare against privatization by calling on congress to pass legislation that “levels the playing field” (<i>e.g., Senate Joint Memorial</i>)	• Defend Original Medicare against privatization and underfunding including by “leveling the playing field” with Medicare Advantage through adding benefits, capping enrollee expenses, and limiting copays and deductibles (<i>anticipated 2024 federal legislation</i>) • Prevent changes to Medicaid that dissipate benefits, limit eligibility and negatively restructures the program.	• Continue to engage with state and federal partners and other stakeholders to address threats to safety net programs.