



forward



Advocacy News

Week 8

We've just finished week 8 of the legislative session, halfway there! In collaboration with WHCA, we have a public facing advocacy platform running on the [Washington Health Action Network](#). To date, over 18,000 messages have been sent to legislators by the general public and legislators have acknowledged to us that they are seeing calls to close the funding gaps in long term care. Through our own advocacy platform, you have sent over 150 messages also urging support for funding. We've raised the visibility on the critical funding needs of skilled nursing and assisted living, but we can and must improve the advocacy contacts members make to strengthen our push. As you know, there's always high demand for too few dollars, this year is no exception and we have to stand out to have our needs prioritized over others. Please engage in advocacy and raise your voices using either the LeadingAge or Washington Health Action Network platforms.

Budget

As we reach the halfway point in this legislative session, we eagerly await the release of the proposed budgets from both the House and the Senate. Currently the legislature is waiting for the next release of the state revenue forecast. The revenue forecast is scheduled to be released on Friday, March 19th. But could come sooner. The budget leads for both houses have indicated that they will be basing the majority of their budget proposals on the March revenue forecast. We continue to meet with legislative leaders, and they continue to express support for many of our positions. We also continue to meet with the general legislative membership in order to educate them on the complex issues surrounding funding of the programs our members are part of. Many of them have expressed support for many of our positions as well.

As we get closer to the release of the proposed budgets, we will be looking for your support and advocacy. We will release advocacy campaigns for different areas that affect many of you. Please watch for these opportunities to advocate to your legislators and join with us in urging them to support the programs you participate in.

[SB 5096](#) - **Concerning an excise tax on gains from the sale or exchange of certain capital assets.** This bill would impose a capital gains tax in the State of Washington. It is currently on the Senate floor calendar waiting to be pulled for a vote. The extra money that this bill would provide, makes it possible for the State to expand funding for many programs.

Policy

[SB 5294](#)- **Concerning the creation of statewide epidemic preparedness and response guidelines for long-term care facilities.** The bill was placed on the Senate floor calendar and we do expect them to vote on it in the next coming days.

[HB 1141](#) - **Increasing access to the death with dignity act.** This bill passed out of the House last week with strong support. As written, it would:

Allow advanced registered nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and osteopathic physician assistants to perform the duties of an attending or consulting medical provider under the Death with Dignity Act (Act).

Reduce the 15-day waiting period between the first and second requests for medications under the Act to 72 hours.

Prohibit employing health care providers from contractually prohibiting an employee health care provider from participating in the Act while outside of the scope of employment and not on the employing health care provider's premises.

[SB 5191](#) - **Regulating unfair business practices and prohibiting predatory price increases during states of emergency.** This bill was passed out of the Senate with one amendment that prohibits an additional civil penalty from being assessed for the same violation under the Consumer Protection Act.

[HB 1124](#) - **Concerning nurse delegation of glucose monitoring, glucose testing, and insulin injections.** This bill is scheduled for public hearing in the Senate Committee on Health & Long Term Care on March 10th.

[SB 5160](#) - **Addressing landlord-tenant relations by providing certain tenant protections during and after landlord access to state rental assistance programs.** This passed out of the Senate with a vote of 29 yeas and 20 nays, closely following party lines. Multiple amendments were adopted, such as clarifying the landlord eligibility for reimbursement under the landlord mitigation program and requiring data to be reported on the program. Nothing was added that would reinstate the strict eviction moratorium provisions, and we remain neutral on the bill.

[SB 5115](#) - **Establishing health emergency labor standards.** This bill is scheduled for a public hearing in the House Committee on Labor & Workplace Standards on March 12th.

[HB 1073](#) - **Expanding coverage of the paid family and medical leave program.** This bill passed out of the House with a vote of 56 yeas and 40 nays. One amendment was adopted that specifies that grants provided for employee leave under the alternate eligibility may not be funded from the family and medical leave insurance account but through a separate funding mechanism to avoid premium rate increases. LeadingAge Washington is still opposed.

[HB 1097](#) - **Increasing worker protections.** This bill passed out of the House with a vote of 53 yeas and 44 nays.

[SB 5190](#) - **Providing health care workers with presumptive benefits during a public health emergency.** This bill is scheduled for a public hearing in the House Committee on Labor & Workplace Standards on March 12th.

Sincerely,

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