

2025 Budget and Policy Priorities

Exchange Board Meeting

February 6, 2025

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Agenda

- ▶ Key Accomplishments
- ▶ Legislative Overview
- ▶ Budget and Policy Priorities
- ▶ Carrying Our Messages



Key Accomplishments

▶ Another year of record-high enrollment

- ▶ More than 300,000 people signed up
- ▶ More than 50,000 new people
- ▶ 14% increase from last year

▶ Subsidies drove affordability

- ▶ Average monthly net premiums, \$70
- ▶ 71,000 people pay as low as \$25 a month
- ▶ Benefiting the most:
 - ▶ Rural residents
 - ▶ Communities of color
 - ▶ People transitioning off Medicaid



Key Accomplishments - continued

▶ Supported those transitioning off Medicaid

- ▶ Robust outreach campaign
- ▶ 73,000 people signed up for coverage

▶ Expanded access to all

- ▶ Sec. 1332 waiver, nearly 2,200 newly eligible enrolled
- ▶ Partnered with HCA to support Apple Health Expansion, nearly 12,000 enrolled

▶ Expanded language support

Assisters support
in more than

40
languages

Up to

30
languages
in direct emails

Customer Support Center
can help in more than

240 languages



Session Snapshot

- ▶ Budget driven session
- ▶ Proposed House and Senate budgets in March/April
- ▶ High volume of bills



Jan 13 Session Starts	Feb 21 Policy Cut off (House of Origin)	Feb 28 Fiscal Cut off (House of Origin)	Mar 12 Cut off (House of Origin)
Apr 2 Policy Cut off (Opposite House)	Apr 8 Fiscal Cut off (Opposite House)	Apr 16 Cut off (Opposite House)	Apr 27 End of Regular Session

Balance of Power

Senate (49 seats)

Democrats (30 seats)

Republicans (19 seats)

House (98 seats)

Democrats (59 seats)

Republicans (39 seats)

New Faces



New Governor



**New Insurance
Commissioner**



**New Attorney
General**



New Agency Secretaries



**New Health Care and
Fiscal Committee
Members**

Priorities Snapshot



**Continue
Cascade
Care
Savings**

**Contain
Costs**

**Protect
Gains**

**Maintain
Customer
Service**

**Medicaid
Changes**

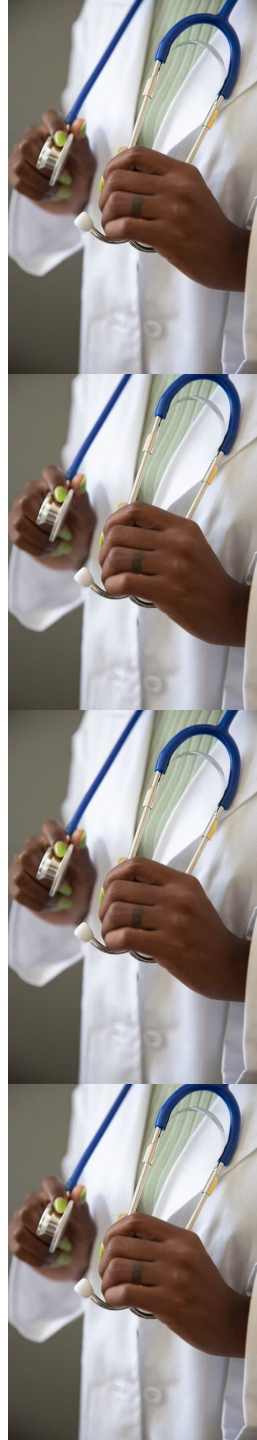
Drive Affordability

▶ Problem

- ▶ Rising health care premiums
- ▶ Uncertainty of enhanced premium tax credits
- ▶ Cascade Care Savings only funded through plan year 2025

▶ Solution

- ▶ Continue Cascade Care Savings in the next biennium
- ▶ Disproportionate impact on,
 - ▶ Rural residents
 - ▶ Communities of color
 - ▶ People transitioning from Medicaid to commercial coverage



Contain Costs

▶ Reference-based pricing

- ▶ Problem: Premium costs continue to rise
- ▶ Solution:
 - ▶ Public option plans (reference-based pricing) premium costs increasing less than other plans
 - ▶ **HB 1123 / SB 5083** – refines reference-based pricing in PEBB/SEBB plans

▶ Organizational ownership transparency

- ▶ Problem: Consolidation helps drive up costs
- ▶ Solution:
 - ▶ **HB 1686 / SB 5561** – creates an annual ownership and affiliation reporting requirement



Protect Equity Gains



- ▶ Access to health and dental plans on Washington Healthplanfinder for noncitizen residents
- ▶ Eligibility for federal premium tax credits for DACA recipients
- ▶ Access to Apple Health Expansion for noncitizen residents

Carrying Our Messages

- ▶ Constituent, board member, caucus nominee
- ▶ Accomplishments
- ▶ Cascade Care Savings
 - ▶ ASK: Continue the program
- ▶ Contain health care costs
 - ▶ ASK: Support House Bill 1123 / Senate Bill 5083
 - ▶ ASK: Support House Bill 1686 / Senate Bill 5561
- ▶ Protect health care access for all





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