

Healthy Families, Healthy Communities



Health care & Nutrition

House Democrats are committed to expanding access to quality, affordable health care to every Washingtonian – young or old, rich or poor. We are continuing to make our health care system more efficient and effective every day.

Critical early detection for kids

Newborn screenings / [HB 2544](#) – Addresses delays to newborn screening tests and results. The bill requires samples to be collected within 48 hours of birth, and delivered to the Department of Health within 72 hours of collection. Research shows that early detection is critical with rare disorders – days can make all the difference in preserving or significantly improving the life of a child. This reform will encourage better standards for hospitals and clinics by giving families the information to make some of life’s most important decisions. *(Governor signed)*

Saving lives

Suicide Prevention Training / [HB 2315](#) - In 2012 the Legislature passed the Matt Adler Suicide, Treatment and Management Act ([HB 2366](#)), which required a broad range of health care providers, who may come into contact with individuals contemplating suicide, to obtain six hours of suicide prevention training every six years. This year’s bill expands the list of professionals to include chiropractors, naturopaths, osteopathic physicians and assistants, physical therapists and assistants, physicians, and nurses. Instead of every six years, this year’s measure requires these health care professionals to go through a one-time 6-hour suicide-prevention training course. *(Delivered to Governor)*



Treating addiction

Individuals who suffer from chemical dependency / [HB 2627](#) - People who suffer from chemical dependency and commit non-felony offenses can be provided treatment rather than taken to jail or a juvenile detention facility at the discretion of the police officer, and within guidelines of the bill, such as according to standards mutually agreed upon with the local prosecutor. Youth are allowed up to 30 hours of counseling if an assessment finds the youth has needs related to chemical dependency. *(Delivered to Governor)*

Treating the whole person

Mental health and chemical dependency treatment services/ [SB 6312](#) – Sets Washington on a path to better health, better care and lower costs. By integrating chemical dependency and behavioral health contracting, we treat the whole person and facilitate new partnerships and create new efficiencies. Recognizing that what works in Puyallup may not work in Spokane, the bill leaves health care professionals the leeway to use their expertise to best serve their community. *(Delivered to Governor)*

Protecting the most vulnerable

Enforcement standards for residential services / [HB 2634](#) - The current system for investigating potential violations by providers of residential and other support services to individuals with developmental disabilities lacks the flexibility needed to conduct investigations and to order penalties or corrective action tailored to the severity of the situation. Just about the only tool available to DSHS is to shut down the provider, typically leaving the client without a place to live. This bill would give DSHS a calibrated range of enforcement tools to respond to cases of inappropriate care short of having to close down the provider's operation. The needed enforcement tools and staff would be funded through a fee essentially covered by the federal government. *(Died in Senate)*

Supporting families

Providing certificate exemptions / [HB 2646](#) - Most long-term care workers are required to complete 75 hours of training and 12 hours of continuing education every year, as well as pass exams to become certified as a home care aide. However, a person who provides care for one person for just 20 hours or less in any month is exempt from the certification requirements. This exemption expires July 1, 2014. The bill would extend the exemption for two more years, and it would add an additional exemption for two years – for those providing only respite care and for not more than 300 hours in a year. *(Folded into SB 6387 - Delivered to Governor)*

Building a bridge to health care

Federal Basic Health Plan / [HB 2594](#) – Takes the first step toward implementing the Federal Basic Health Option in Washington, with the ultimate goal of providing low-cost health insurance for thousands. [The bill would study the feasibility of creating](#) a middle-ground option for families who make too much to qualify for Medicaid, but not enough to afford insurance on their own. By leveraging federal dollars already on their way to our state, we can create a more cost-effective product to cover families that are not getting the care they need. *(Died in Senate)*

A healthy and active start

Healthiest Next Generation / [HB 2643](#) – Establishes a public-private partnership dedicated to improving children's health. The group will work with communities to implement immediate changes ultimately geared toward lowering obesity and promoting healthy lifestyles among our youngest citizens, as well as identifying future strategies to help Washington children be more active and healthy. *(Died in Senate)*



Breastfeeding friendly Washington

Breastfeeding friendly WA / [HB 2329](#) – There are countless health benefits associated with breastfeeding. This bill creates a “Breastfeeding Friendly” Washington designation, a voluntary program to encourage and recognize hospitals, health care providers, workplaces and childcare centers that offer an optimal level of care for infant feeding. *(Died in Senate)*

Access to healthcare data and information

Health care purchasing and transforming the health care delivery system/ [HB 2572](#) – Seeks to help integrate our health care programs – mental health, chemical dependency and primary care.

Facilitating these partnerships in our communities will allow us to treat both mental health and chemical dependency issues in a comprehensive and coordinated effort. *(Died in Senate)*