

Washington State Legislation for Health Disparities

May 3, 2007

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WA Health Disparities Legislation 2006

- **SB 6193:** Biennial surveys of licensed professionals to determine characteristics, including race and ethnicity
- **SB 6194:** Multi-cultural training in health professional curricula and continuing education for health professionals
- **SB 6196:** Tribal government representative on SBOH
- **SB 6197:** Create Governor's Interagency Coordinating Council on Health Disparities to plan for the elimination of health disparities; establish health impact reviews (formerly SB 6195)

Health Disparities Council Charge

- Promote communication among state agencies and with communities of color, and public and private sectors
- Conduct inquiries and studies, and gather information
- Establish advisory committees
- Assess the availability of culturally and linguistically appropriate health literature and interpretive services
- Collaborate with SBOH to conduct health impact reviews
- Develop a state action plan for eliminating disparities

Health Impact Reviews

- Reviews of proposals for legislative or budgetary changes
- Determine whether the proposal would exacerbate or ameliorate health disparities
- Completed by the SBOH in collaboration with the Council
- Requested by Governor or legislator
- 10-day turnaround during legislative session
- Board may limit response and agencies can decline to support if resources are insufficient

State Action Plan

- Plan must address disparities incrementally
 - Plan must be limited to actions on five priority diseases, conditions or indicators in the first version
- Progress reports to Legislature due in 2008 and 2010
- First version of the plan due in 2012
- Plan must be updated every two years
 - Five more priorities can be added each time the plan is updated or revised

SB 6194: Multicultural Education for Health Care Professionals

- Creates an ongoing multicultural education and awareness program for healthcare professionals
 - Goal: Increase knowledge and understanding of the relationship between culture and health.
- Multicultural education training as a continuing education component
- Requires all schools that train licensed health professionals to offer multicultural health education by July 1, 2008

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