



Dear Friends,

Welcome to the inaugural issue of Health Policy News for the 2016 Session of the Washington State Legislature. We will come to you each week with updates about legislative action impacting community health.

The legislature will convene at noon today and meet for 60 days. Next week, we will send you a link to the legislative calendar and a list of bills we will be tracking.

Expectations are low for many policy bills to pass this session. It is a "short session" in an election year. Legislators will want to conclude business in their scheduled time and hit the campaign trail. As they return to Olympia, lawmakers face a budget deficit caused by increased [caseloads and enrollments](#), and the McCleary state Supreme Court case on education. In August, the state Supreme Court delivered a unanimous order and began fining the legislature \$100,000 a day for failure to develop a plan to fully fund K-12 public education as directed by its 2012 McCleary decision. The McCleary case [directs legislators to boost education by billions of dollars by the](#)

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[Austin Jenkins](#), [Rachel La Corte](#), and [Justin Schrader](#) preview the upcoming 2016 Legislative Session, as part of the City Club Tacoma event, Austin

[2017-18 school year](#). Thursday, during a briefing with reporters, legislators reviewed a plan to fund McCleary, but [acknowledged finding the funding will take a year](#).

The Legislature will also face funding of charter schools, which were ruled unconstitutional by the state Supreme Court, the Friday before the Labor Day weekend. Initiative 1366, passed by Washington voters in November puts in the Legislature in a position where it must either send a constitutional amendment to the people requiring a two thirds vote in the legislature or a public vote for all tax increases or the state sales tax is lowered by 1% from 6.5% to 5.5% on April 15, 2016. This one percent reduction in the state sales tax would result in about a \$1 billion loss in tax revenue.

Below, please find helpful links to help you navigate during the legislative session:

- [General Information for Legislation](#)
- [Session Committee Meeting Schedules](#)
- [Summary of Introduced House Legislative Bills](#)
- [Summary of Introduced Senate Legislative Bills](#)
- [House Floor Activity Reports](#) (also shows live status of House floor)
- [Senate Floor Activity Reports](#) (also shows live status of Senate floor)

Our amazing lobbyist, [Erin Dziedzic](#) will be working around the clock in Olympia. Whitney and I will be shuttling back and forth to Olympia, and joining us this Session is Rachel Beck. Rachel is a Healthy Gen Fellow from the UW Daniel J. Evans School of Public Policy and Governance. As always, if you have any bill or policy questions, please feel welcome to direct them to me at the email (or twitter handle!)

Jenkins & Friends.

Healthy Gen was happy to be in attendance, along with our prevention partner and friend, Deputy Secretary of the Department of Health, Dennis Worsham.



Healthy Gen also attended 2016 State of Reform, which featured a panel on Community Health Workers, including Kathleen Clark, Department of Health, Archana Mayana, Optum, Norma Owens, Coordinated Care, and Michelle DiMiscio, Seattle-King County Public Health.

Healthy Gen was also happy to attend "Lessons from Social Epidemiology in Health Care", which

below.

Ever forward,

Julie

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featured close partner, and [Uncommon Solutions](#) co-founder, [Robbi Kay Norman](#), and "The Role of Counties in Health Care Politics" where interest garnered a packed room to hear about what counties are thinking about the changing landscape of health care & social service systems in Washington State.



Have you been reading Executive Director Melanie Gillespie's new blog, [Convergence Emergence](#)? You should!

And while you're at it, take a look at the most recent news and

happenings from
Healthy Gen with our
new e-blast, [HOPE](#)

[Happens](#)



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