



STATE OF WASHINGTON
WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

PO Box 47990 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7990

February 12, 2007

The Honorable Eileen Cody, Chair
House Health Care and Wellness Committee
Washington State House of Representatives
Post Office Box 40600
Olympia, Washington 98504-0600

Dear Representative Cody:

I am writing as chair of the Washington State Board of Health to support House Bill 2098, which is scheduled to be heard before your committee this afternoon. This bill would implement many of the recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Commission on Health Care Costs and Access.

While many elements of this bill are commendable from a public health perspective, such as the emphasis on health promotion and prevention, I would like to speak specifically to section 19. This would provide additional noncategorical state funding to local health jurisdictions. That funding would be dispersed through contracts that would be tied to performance standards and data reporting. The Board is keenly aware of the funding difficulties facing the public health system in Washington State. It also believes that performance standards are necessary. Only through such standards can accountability be achieved.

Thank you for taking up this critically important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Treuman Katz".

Treuman Katz
Chair

cc: House Care Health Care Committee Members
Washington State Board of Health Members
Ms. Christina Hulet, Governor's Executive Policy Office
Mr. Brian Peyton, Department of Health
Mr. Craig McLaughlin, Washington State Board of Health