



STATE OF WASHINGTON
WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

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December 13, 2007

TO: Washington State Board of Health Members

FROM: Craig McLaughlin, Executive Director

RE: DRAFT SENSE OF THE BOARD POLICY ON POSSIBLE 2008 LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

Background and Summary

State Board of Health Policy 2001-001 creates a procedure for monitoring policy issues during a legislative session. It also establishes processes for communication between the Board and the Legislature. The policy allows for the creation of a "sense of the Board" document that describes the Board's general position on policy issues that are likely to come before the Legislature. The document guides the activities of staff and individual Board members as issues arise during session. A copy of the policy is attached.

At its January 2006 meeting, the Board approved a "Statement of Policy on Possible 2007 Legislative Issues." For today's meeting, I have attached for discussion purposes a version of that document with some very minor edits to reflect obvious differences between the upcoming session and the previous one.

During today's agenda item, I will present a brief overview of the 60-day session that will begin January 7. That will include a short discussion about what we know to date about likely bills that relate to the Board's work. This will be followed by an opportunity to review the 2007 sense of the board document and discuss possible changes for the 2008 session. I will then take comments from today's meeting, as well as any subsequent comments from Board members, and develop a final draft of a "Statement on Policy on Possible 2008 Legislative Issues" for this Board to consider and possibly adopt at its January 9, 2008 meeting. Today's agenda item would also be an appropriate time for Board members to discuss whether any revisions to Policy 2001-001 are needed.

Recommended Board Action

None.