



STATE OF WASHINGTON
WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

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March 12, 2008

TO: Washington State Board of Health Members

FROM: Craig McLaughlin, Executive Director

**SUBJECT: BOARD AUTHORITY TO PROPOSE LEGISLATION AND
REVIEW OF POLICY 01-001**

Background and Summary

At its December 13, 2008 meeting, the Washington State Board of Health reviewed Policy 01-001, which addresses legislative communications. It also considered a proposed policy statement on issues that were likely to come before the 2008 Legislature. In the context of that discussion, Board members asked whether it was possible for the Board to initiate legislative proposals. I said I thought it was possible and agreed to provide a more definitive answer at today's meeting.

Only members of the Legislature may introduce and sponsor legislation. Executive agencies may request legislation. They are expected to follow a process of review by the Governor's Office and the Office of Financial Management (OFM) before they seek legislative sponsors. I have included in your packets a June 4, 2007 memo from Marty Brown, Legislative Director for the Governor's Office, describing this process for the 2008 session.

I reviewed our statutory authority with the Board's counsel, Melissa Burke-Cain, and we did not find any legal reason the Board could not follow the procedure laid out for other agencies. I then consulted with Marty Brown, who said other boards and commissions sometimes propose request legislation, and the Board could certainly do so.

Finally, I reviewed Policy 01-001. I am recommending that it be revised. Suggested language is included in your packets. As part of that revision, I have proposed language related to request legislation that is consistent with OFM policy direction.

Recommended Board Action

The Board may choose to adopt revisions to Policy 01-001 as proposed, with or without additional changes. Alternatively, it could provide further direction to staff and consider adopting revisions at its next meeting.