



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
**WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH**

*PO Box 47990 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7990*

January 14, 2009

**TO:** Washington State Board of Health Members

**FROM:** Craig McLaughlin, Executive Director

**SUBJECT: DRAFT STATEMENT OF BOARD POLICY ON POSSIBLE 2009 LEGISLATIVE ISSUES**

**Background and Summary**

State Board of Health Policy 2001-001 creates a procedure for monitoring legislative issues during session. It also establishes processes for communication between Board members and the Legislature. The policy (see attached) calls for the creation of a Board policy statement that would inform the activities of staff and individual Board members as issues arise during session.

At its November 2008 meeting, the Board reviewed a preliminary draft of a policy statement. That draft was based on the 2008 statement but had been reorganized to correspond to the framework of the Board's strategic plan. I have not received Board member recommendation for changes.

In past years, the Board has carried forward its previous policy statements with fairly minor revisions. I think it is important to note, however, that the state budget crisis makes this exercise more challenging this year. The Board will need to think carefully about policy suggestions that have cost implications, and it will need to decide how to respond to proposed cuts to policies it has supported or programs it regulates.

Based on staff input, the Governor's budget proposal, and any additional information about the likely legislative agenda that I have received since November, I have developed a final draft for possible adoption at today's meeting (see attached). If adopted by the Board, the "Statement of Policy on Possible 2009 Legislative Issues" will serve as a guidance document for the legislative session that will convene January 14.

**Recommended Board Action**

The Board may wish to consider, amend if necessary, and adopt the following motion:

***Motion: The Board adopts the Statement of Policy on Possible 2009 Legislative Issues as submitted on January 14, 2009.***