



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

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

November 12, 2008

TO: Washington State Board of Health Members

FROM: Craig McLaughlin, Executive Director

SUBJECT: **WASHINGTON HEALTH FOUNDATION POLICY PRIORITIES**

**Summary**

The Board works closely with a number of partners to pursue its policy objectives. Many key partners are federal, state, local, and tribal government agencies, but many are private sector organizations, particularly nonprofit advocacy organizations, associations and unions, and foundations. One organization we often partner with is the Washington Health Foundation.

The Board and the foundation have strong organizational ties. We have similar policy priorities. The Board is a participating partner in the Healthiest State in the Nation Campaign. Three Board members—Mary Selecky, Treuman Katz, and Mel Tonasket—also serve on the foundation's board. The foundation's policy director is a former executive director of the Board, and former Board members are current members of the foundation's Policy Advisory Committee.

The Board periodically invites a Washington Health Foundation representative to brief the Board on the foundation's activities. The last such appearance was in July 2006. At the suggestion of Chair Treuman Katz, I have invited Don Sloma, the foundation's policy director, to speak to us today. Copies of the foundation's 2008 Healthiest State in the Nation Report Card, ranking Washington tenth among the nation's states in terms of populations health, are included in the Board packets behind Tab 12. Also included are copies of a draft document describing the foundation's policy priorities for the 2009 legislative session.

This is not an action item. Later this afternoon, however, the Board will be revisit its strategic plan (Item 12) and discuss potential edits to a statement of policy that will guide its interactions with the Legislature (Tab 14). Although Chair Katz cannot be with us today, he had suggested that there should be a relationship between the Board's strategic plan and the report card. The Board may also want to discuss the degree to which it would like to reflect support for the foundation's policy proposals in the Board's policy statement.

**Recommended Board Action**

None.