



WASHINGTON STATE

Board of Health

ALWAYS WORKING FOR A SAFER AND HEALTHIER WASHINGTON

DATE: November 4, 2009

TO: Washington State Board of Health Members

FROM: Craig McLaughlin, Executive Director

SUBJECT: DRAFT SENSE OF THE BOARD ON POSSIBLE 2010 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 2009 meeting, the Board approved a “Statement of Policy on Possible 2009 Legislative Issues.” For today’s meeting, I have attached for discussion purposes a version of that document with some 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 11. At this point we know very little about the upcoming session except that it will be dominated by the need to pass a supplemental budget that closes a budget gap of roughly \$1.25 billion. Much of the information about the upcoming session is speculative.

The overview will be followed by an opportunity to review the 2009 sense of the board document and discuss possible changes for the 2010 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 of Board Policy on Possible 2010 Legislative Issues” for this Board to consider and possibly adopt at its January 13, 2010 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.