



Updates: Council Redesign Proposal



December 14, 2023

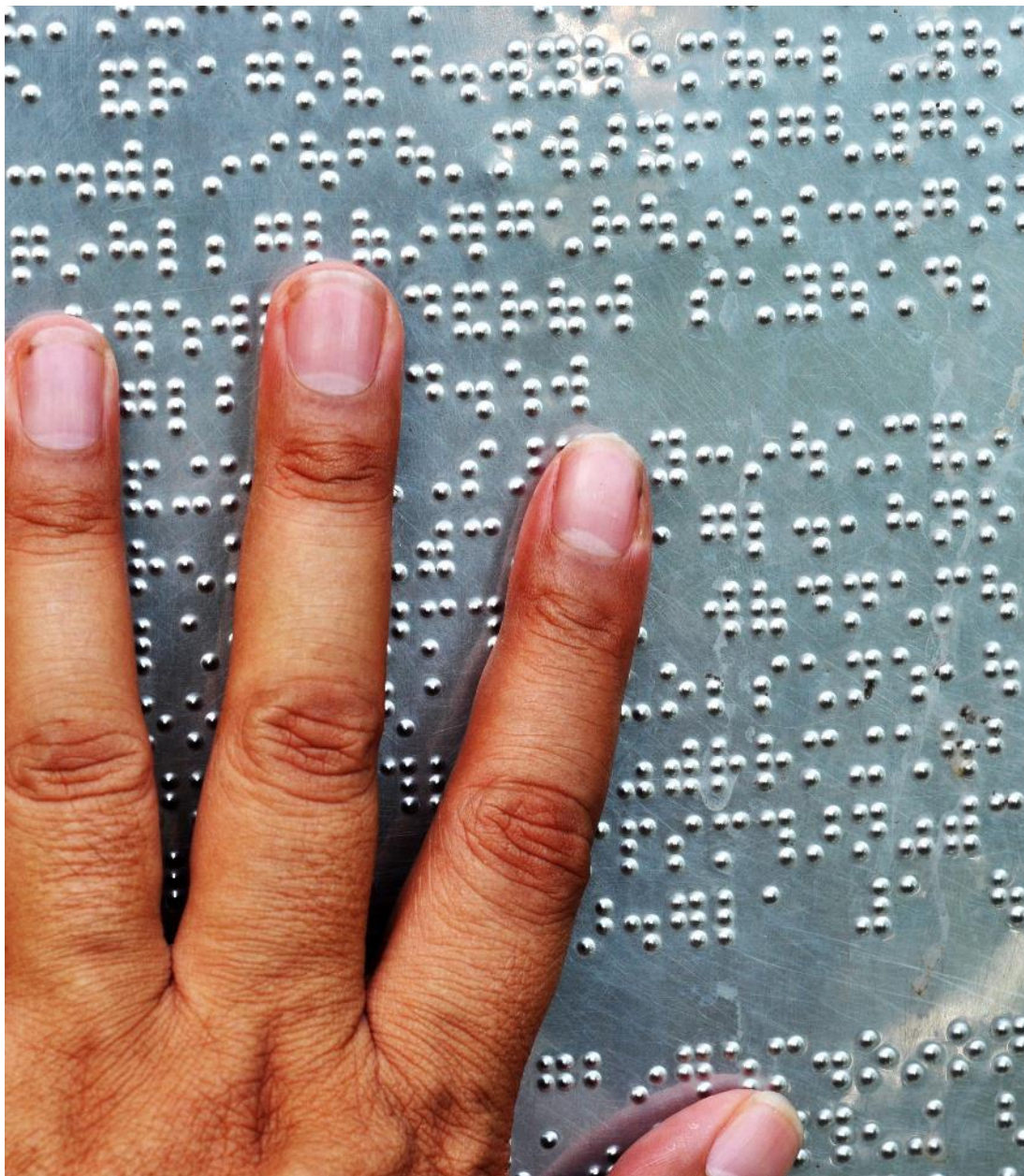


The Health Disparities Council is recommending updates to our statute (RCW [43.20.270-280](#)), the law that directs our work, to incorporate 17 years of work and learning addressing health disparities in Washington State.



Foundational Truths

- Racism is a public health crisis.
- The COVID-19 pandemic has worsened conditions for communities.
- Community holds inherent power.
- There are many dimensions to health and wellbeing.
- We are interconnected.





UPDATES

- Submitted **request legislation** and a **decision package** (fiscal request) to the Governor's Office for consideration for the 2024 legislative session.
- Launched the [Council Redesign webpage](#) that includes information on redesign purpose, process, and recommendations.
- Worked with Governor's policy and fiscal staff to answer questions and incorporate their suggestions.
- Submitted an **updated Z-draft** (proposed bill language) and **fiscal note**, and an **alternative funding plan** for consideration.
- Staff began legislative outreach.



UPDATED Z-DRAFT

- Reverted intent language to what is currently in statute [see Sec. 2]. Key concepts incorporated in later section [Sec. 4].
 - Racism is a public health crisis
 - Climate change
 - Intersecting systems of oppression
 - Optimal health and wellbeing
- Retained name change: “Governor’s Council for Health Justice and Equity” (Sec. 2 and throughout).
- Removed detailed requirements for youth representative seats [Sec. 3 (5)(c)].
- Adjusted reporting deadlines [Sec. 4 (5)].

Meeting Materials

- Updated Z-draft (proposed bill language) submitted to Governor's Office in December 2023

<https://healthequity.wa.gov/health-disparities-council-meeting-agendas-minutes-and-material-packets>





•••

THANK YOU



To request this document in an alternate format, please contact the Washington State Board of Health at 360-236-4110 or wsboh@sboh.wa.gov. TTY users can dial 711.

