

# GOVERNOR'S INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HEALTH DISPARITIES

## 2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION BULLETIN



"[We're] working in solidarity so everyone has meaningful opportunity to achieve their full potential."

~ Community Partner

### Council Redesign Bills

The Governor's Interagency Coordinating Council on Health Disparities (Council) is proposing a redesign of our authorizing statute (chapters [43.20.270](#), [43.20.275](#), [43.20.280](#) RCW), which is the law that directs our work.

The Council's proposal was introduced in the state Legislature as [House Bill 1262/Senate Bill 5228](#) (companion bills) for the 2025 Legislative Session. If passed, these bills would update the Council's name, membership, and responsibilities.

Community priorities and leading health equity strategies informed these proposed updates. These changes would create a stronger, more inclusive Council to help Washington State address the challenges of our time, including eliminating discrimination, responding and adapting to climate change, and realizing health as a basic human right.

### Summary of Proposed Statutory Changes

- Enable the creation of a statewide vision, universal goals, and policy recommendations to propel Washington toward health equity and optimal health for all.
- Embrace Washington's full potential by renaming the Council to "Governor's Council for Health Justice and Equity."
- Extend interagency efforts upstream to focus on social determinants of health and root causes, so strategies are effective and enduring.
- Focus on goals that reflect holistic health and our state's cultural, geographic, and linguistic diversity, so that a person's health and wellbeing are not restricted by where they live or the language they speak.
- Center community voices, including youth expertise, so the actions we take today promote health for all generations, including future generations.
- Align Council efforts with the current government landscape to reinforce accountability while avoiding redundancy.
- Update Council reporting requirements to spotlight policy implementation and progress.

To learn more, visit [healthequity.wa.gov](https://healthequity.wa.gov) or [healthequity.wa.gov/redesign](https://healthequity.wa.gov/redesign)

Contact the Council: [healthequity@sboh.wa.gov](mailto:healthequity@sboh.wa.gov)  
360-236-4110 / TTY 711