



Action Workshop  
December 4, 2021

**LWW** LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS<sup>®</sup>  
OF WASHINGTON



**Kim Abbey LWVWA Health Care Issue Chair**

# The LWVWA Position on Health Care

Programs in Action- on the **LWVWA** (<https://lwvwa.org/>) website click the Advocacy tab and open Issues.

Health care policies need to:

“ensure universal access for all residents to a comprehensive, uniform, and affordable set of health services. These services shall be available regardless of one’s health status (i.e. , pre-existing conditions) or financial status”

# The LWVUS Positions on Health Care

The League “believes that a basic level of quality health care at an affordable cost should be available to all U.S. residents.

Every U.S. resident should have access to a basic level of care that includes the prevention of disease, health promotion and education, primary care (including prenatal and reproductive health), acute care, long-term care and mental health care.

Every U.S. resident should have access to affordable, quality in- and out-patient, behavior health care, including needed medications and supportive service that is integrated with, and achieves parity with, physical health care.

# The LWVUS Positions on Health Care (cont'd)

Dental, vision, and hearing care also are important but lower in priority.

Under any system of health care reform, consumers/patients should be permitted to purchase services or insurance coverage beyond the basic level.

“The League favors a national health insurance plan financed through general taxes in place or individual insurance premiums. As the United States moves toward a national health insurance plan, an employer-based system of health care reform that provides universal access is acceptable to the League.”

# Summary of the Bills of the 2021 Legislative Session (Passed)

- **SB 5399 established the Universal Health Care Commission**
  - This 15-member commission has the responsibility to continue to develop a path to provide universal coverage.
- **HB 1086 Creating the State Office of Behavioral Health Consumer Advocacy**
  - Passed unanimously in the House and Senate. Supported by NAMI
- **HB 1325 The Partnership Access Line (PAL)**
  - For parents needing child/teen behavioral health services was established
- **SB 5195 Concerning Prescribing Opioid Overdose Reversal Medication**
  - Passed
- **HB 1196 Concerning audio-only telemedicine**
  - Passed and requires reimbursement for audio-only telemedicine services

# Summary of the Bills of the 2021 Legislative Session (Passed)

- **HB 1225 Concerning School-based Health Centers**
  - Will develop and award grant funding for school-based clinics and coordinate with the statewide nonprofit organization, educational service districts, the Health Care Authority, hosting school districts, and the Office of the Insurance Commissioner to provide support to SBHCs.
- **SB 5052 Concerning the creation of health equity zones**
  - The state intends to work with community leaders within the health equity zones to share information and coordinate efforts with the goal of addressing the most urgent needs.
- **SB 5068 Improving maternal health outcomes by extending coverage during the postpartum period**
  - Postpartum Medicaid coverage currently ends 60 days after pregnancy. Extending health care coverage through the first year postpartum is one of the best tools for increasing access to care and improving maternal and infant health.

# **SB 5399** Established the Universal Health Care Commission

Commissioners have been named by the Governor.

HCHR (Health Care is a Human Right) has a sub-committee to monitor the meetings and actions.

Kelly Powers and Mo Brinck-Lund are co-chairs of this sub-committee. Contact them, emails are in the chat.

Health Care for All-WA sponsors a **'Meet the Commissioners' zoom on Dec. 8, 7 PM** – see the website to join.

# Priorities for the 2022 Legislation Session

- **HB 1047** Requiring coverage for hearing instruments for children and adolescents
  - A health carrier offering a health plan issued or renewed on or after Jan. 1, 2023, must include coverage for hearing instruments for persons who are 18 years of age or younger, with refitting every 36 months.
- **SB 5142** Establishing the profession of Dental Therapist
  - Will be re-introduced
  - Adding the dental therapist to the dental team will expand the dental clinic team and address racial and ethnic disparities in urban and rural dental health care
- **HB 1141** Increasing access to the Death with Dignity Act
  - Makes changes to the 2009 Death with Dignity Act, mainly changes ‘physician’ to ‘qualified medical provider’ and eliminates the 15-day waiting period and reduces it to 72 hours

# Priorities for the 2022 Legislation Session (cont'd)

- **SB 5335 Concerning the acquisition of health care facilities and mergers**
  - Health system acquisitions must improve, rather than harm, access to affordable quality health care.
  - The legislature is committed to ensuring that Washingtonians have access to the full range of reproductive, end-of-life, and gender affirming health care services
- **HB 1499 Providing behavioral health system responses to individuals with substance use disorder**
  - Increases funding for substance use disorder treatment and recovery programs,
  - Adopts a public health-based approach by eliminating penalties for personal use drug offenses and connecting people with services to address the root causes of their substance use disorder,
  - Expands resources for statewide education about substance use.
- **SB 5020 Assessing a penalty on unsupported prescription drug price increases**
  - Allows penalty to drug manufacturers who increase drug prices without providing new clinical evidence.

# **SB 5142** Establishing the profession of Dental Therapist

<https://www.wadentalaccess.com/>

Read the BLOG for more information

UPDATE: The Dental Access Task Force has completed their findings on Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>.

I will attend the WDAC coalition meeting on Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> – and will know more after that.

Possibly the SB 5142 will be amended or revised.

# HB 1141 Increasing access to the Death with Dignity Act

<https://endoflifewa.org/>

Passed in the House and in the Senate in 2021.  
Was referred back to House Rules committee,  
where it was stalled.

Sponsor: Rep. Skyler Rude

# **SB 5335** Concerning the Acquisition of Health Care Facilities and Mergers

## KEEP OUR CARE ACT (KOCA) COALITION

The bill requires a system of oversight to review and approve all health system consolidations before they occur. The bill will ensure that future consolidations do not perpetuate discriminatory restrictions to reproductive, gender-affirming, or end-of-life care or exacerbate affordability barriers. It would also ensure that Washington state's health systems remain robust amid the COVID-19 public health crisis.

Public Virtual Event scheduled for **January 5, 2022 at 5:00 PM-6:00 PM**

More to come.....

# Healthcare Affinity Group

- Contact [kabbey48@gmail.com](mailto:kabbey48@gmail.com) to be added to the this group and receive the Zoom link to attend.
- Background
  - Formed September 2020 by Kim Abbey – LWVWA Lobby Team Issue Chair for Health Care
  - Network with the local Leagues with health care committees and interested members
  - Meets monthly outside of legislative session and will resume May.7. 2022
- Meetings include external speakers to help us stay up to date
- **Health Care in our state and the US is a DEI issue**
  - Improved access to health services and affordable medication will improve diversity, equity, and inclusiveness in our state.

# National Health Care Affinity Group HCR4US

- LWVUS national Health Care Affinity Group
- Focus is to increase access to health care by Single Payer
- Meets monthly (last Sunday of the month) – register at the website above
- Valuable resources - research, presentation, and studies on their website - <https://lwwhealthcarereform.org/>

# References (1 of 2)

- League of Women Voters Health Care Toolkit and HCR4US <https://lwwhealthcarereform.org>
- Health Care For All Washington <https://www.healthcareforallwa.org/>
- Physicians for a National Health Program (PNHP)  
National: <https://pnhp.org/>  
WA State: <https://www.pnhpwashington.org>
- Whole Washington <https://wholewashington.org/whole-washington/>

# References (2 of 2)

- National Nurses United (NNU) - Medicare For All  
<https://www.nationalnursesunited.org/medicare-for-all>
- One Payer States  
<https://onepayerstates.org>
- Medicare for All Podcasts  
<https://medicareforallexplained.org>
- Healthcare is a Human Right (HCHR) National and Washington  
<https://healthcareisahumanright.org>  
<http://www.healthcareisarightwa.org>

<b>Bill #</b>	<b>2021 Leg. Session bills</b>	<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>Status</b>
SB 5399	Creation of the UHC Commision	Sen. Emily Randall	PASSED
SB 5195	Prescribing Opioid Overdose Reversal Meds	Sen. Marko Lias	PASSED
HB 1086	Create a state office of BH consumer advocacy	Rep. Tarra Simmons	PASSED
HB 1225	Concerning school-based health centers	Rep. Monica Stonier	PASSED

<b>PRIORITIES FOR 2022 Legislative session</b>				
<b>Bill #</b>	<b>2021 Leg. Session bills</b>	<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Comments</b>
SB 5142	Establishing the profession of Dental Therapist	Sen. David Frockt	First reading ONLY, no public hearing in 2021	First bill written in 2010, every biennium since then!
HB 1047	Hearing Instruments for Children	Rep. Emily Wick	First reading ONLY, no public hearing in 2021	
HB 1411	Access to Death with Dignity	Rep. Skyler Rude	Passed in the House H&W committee	Passed in the Senate H&LTC committee, returned to the House Rules committee, and was stalled there.
SB 5335	Acquisition of health care facilities (mergers)	Sen. Emily Randall	First reading ONLY, no public hearing in 2021	
HB 1499	BH system response for people with Subs. Use Disorders	Rep. Lauren Davis	Passed the House Public Safety committee	referred to House Appropriations, stalled there