

## Weekly Legislative Update: **Healthcare**

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### **Bills Needing Action This Week**

*Remember, only authorized members can speak for the League; the Issue Chairs will do that, so please leave the "Organization" box blank. A more powerful influence is many voices speaking for themselves rather than many voices speaking for the League.*

**No bills needing action this week.**

### **Bills We Support**

**SB 5241 Concerning material changes to the materials and operation structure of participants in the healthcare marketplace** (previously Keep Our Care Act (KOCA)). Sponsored by Senator Randall and sixteen others, this bill seeks to limit mergers and acquisitions of hospitals and healthcare facilities. Passage gives the Attorney General further legal grounds to investigate and intervene in cases where takeover of a secular healthcare facility limits choice in personal healthcare decision making. This is particularly of concern in end of life, gender affirming care and the whole of reproductive healthcare.

**SJM 8006 Requesting that the Federal Government create a Universal Health Care Program.**

This bill sponsored by Senator Hasegawa, Cleveland, Billig, Kuderer, Lovelett, Nugyen, Shewmake, Stanford, Valdez, and Wilson, C. is a joint memorial to the Federal Government which requests the Government to create a single payor Universal Healthcare program and if it will not or cannot the Government should provide Washington State with the necessary waivers allowing the State to develop, define, and fund our own. It is a statement to Washington DC that we the people of Washington want Universal Healthcare funded by a single payor system separate from employment.

**SJR 8202 Senate Joint Resolution. Amending the State Constitution to address reproductive freedom.**

This resolution will require passage by two-thirds of the membership in both the House and Senate and if passed will be voted on by the voters in the next general election. Sponsored by Senators Keiser and Kuderer and fourteen others. This bill had a public hearing in Senate Health & Long-term Care Committee on 1/24/23 at 8am and was heard in Executive Session on 1/31/23 and received a Do Pass recommendation but did not pass out of Rules.

## Bills We Are Watching

**HB 2176 Improving access to patient care by increasing preventive dental care.** This bill would permit untrained dental assistants to perform work that should be done by trained and credentialed dental hygienists.

## Bills We Oppose

No bills at this time.

## How You Can Be Involved

- Local Leagues in Washington have action chairs who coordinate action teams. Some local Leagues have health care committees or individuals with a healthcare interest to work with so you can take action locally. Contact your local League action chair to find out, join, and get active.
- Please work with LWVWA Healthcare Issue Chairs and become involved with our Healthcare Affinity group. We welcome your perspectives as we determine our support for legislation and prepare testimony for the session. Contact us to be added to the Healthcare Affinity Group membership. We can make a difference if we act together!
- To learn more or get more involved contact, **Jody Disney**, Healthcare Issue Chair.