

The stakes are high for health care. Washingtonians are struggling to get by – [skipping care due to cost, facing outsized medical debt](#), and forced to make impossible choices for their health and safety. Federal attacks cut even deeper, placing [1 in 20 Washingtonians at risk of losing health coverage](#), and threatening immigrants and reproductive care. Health access and disparities continue to worsen for communities of color, rural residents, and those with disabilities & chronic conditions.

We're fighting back. In 2026, NoHLA will push back against cuts to the health safety net and urge policymakers to continue their commitment to equitable care. Our priorities include:

1. DEFEND AN EQUITABLE HEALTH SAFETY NET

- **Safety net coverage.** We oppose cuts to Apple Health/Medicaid, the Exchange Marketplace, and Medicare that would reduce eligibility or limit benefits. WA has already cut to the bone: [4 in 5 Apple Health enrollees already report struggling](#) to access care. We urge focus on minimizing harm from “work requirements” & other red tape from the federal “Big Bad Bill,” H.R. 1.
- **Immigrant health care.** We prioritize maintaining the Apple Health Expansion to provide a lifeline to 12,000 Washingtonians, expanding capacity to ensure basic care for at least 45,000 lawfully present immigrants losing coverage this year due to the federal “Big Bad Bill” H.R. 1, and enhanced immigrant privacy protections.
- **Marketplace stabilization.** We support maintaining state Cascade Care Savings premium assistance to help 75,000 Washingtonians afford coverage, expanding investment to offset rising premiums and expired federal enhanced premium tax credits, and setting higher standards for Marketplace plans.
- **Progressive & targeted revenue.** We need new progressive revenue to protect the health safety net, including structural solutions to balance our tax code and targeted policies, such as a fee on large corporations that rely on taxpayers to subsidize their employee health costs.

2. IMPROVE HEALTH CARE AFFORDABILITY

- **Stop unfair medical bills.** We support protecting patients from harsh billing practices, such as excessive interest rates and wage garnishment for medical debt.
- **Slow corporate influence.** We support addressing outsized profit incentives by enhancing state oversight of health system consolidations and codifying corporate practice of medicine protections.
- **Tackle high prices.** We support efforts to moderate rising premiums, including requiring insurers to devote a greater share of premiums to care instead of profit or administration.

3. EXPAND ACCESS TO CARE

- **Preventive care, reproductive care, and vaccines.** We support efforts to shore up state vaccine infrastructure, preventive services, and reproductive care as federal public health systems erode.
- **Care denials.** We support eliminating unnecessary care delays and denials, such as excessive prior authorization requirements that stem from AI.