

February 28, 2026

Re: Support for the state premium assistance program (Cascade Care Savings) in the operating budget

Dear Budget Leaders,

The undersigned 27 organizations write in strong support of our state's health insurance premium assistance program, Cascade Care Savings. We ask for your continued support for this critical program in the supplemental operating budget by funding it at the highest level possible - at least the Senate level of \$47.5 million in FY 2027.

Our organizations aim to maintain and improve access to affordable health care and coverage for all because we know that [4 in 5 Washingtonians surveyed worry about affording health care in the future.](#)

In light of rising health care costs and the expiration of enhanced premium tax credits, a significant number of Washingtonians need help affording coverage when they purchase their insurance through our state exchange, Washington HealthPlanFinder. Already, over [19,000 Washingtonians have dropped their health coverage](#) due to growing affordability challenges. It's expected that federal changes over the next several years will cut Exchange enrollment by about one-third.

The Exchange requested \$65 million in FY 2027 to continue the Cascade Care Savings program. This level would help meet increased demand. While we appreciate that the House included additional funding for Cascade Care Savings, the funding level is not sufficient to meet current need. If the House level is adopted, it will put more Washingtonians at risk of becoming uninsured. **Therefore, we request that you include at a minimum the Senate's proposed funding level in the final supplemental budget.**

We know we can only partially mitigate coverage losses driven by federal policy changes. However, Cascade Care Savings often means the difference between getting access to care and going uninsured. If people are uninsured, they will still seek out care in emergency rooms or go without care unnecessarily.

Please support strong funding for Cascade Care Savings in the final budget. For more information, please contact Jim Freeburg, executive director of the Patient Coalition of

Washington at 206-245-0059/jifreeburg@Yahoo.com or Erin Dziedzic at 425-466-5177/erin@dzpublicaffairs.com

Sincerely,

The ALS Association
American Cancer Society, Cancer Action Network
American Civil Liberties Union of Washington
American Diabetes Association
Better Health Together
Blood Cancer United
Center for Chronic Illness
Changent
Community Health Plan of Washington / Community Health Network of Washington
Economic Opportunity Institute
Foundation for Healthy Generations
Health Care for All- Washington
HealthierHere
National Multiple Sclerosis Society
Neighborcare Health
North Seattle Progressives
Northwest Health Law Advocates (NoHLA)
Northwest Immigrant Rights Project
Patient Coalition of Washington
Puget Sound Advocates for Retirement Action (PSARA)
Susan G. Komen
WAInsulin4all
Washington Poor People's Campaign
Washington State Medical Association
Washington School-Based Health Alliance
WithinReach
Yakima Housing Authority

