

27 February 2026

**RE: 131 WA Organizations Urge Senate to Join House in Funding Affordable Immigrant Health Care Access in the Final Operating Budget**

Dear Chair Ormsby, Vice-Chair Macri & Vice-Chair Gregerson:

**The 131 undersigned organizations write to express our gratitude for preserving the Apple Health Expansion Medicaid-like benefits in the supplemental 2025-2027 budget proposals.** We know that Washington is facing a revenue shortfall and budget writers are balancing difficult decisions and appreciate your continued commitment to an equitable health safety net for all Washingtonians, particularly given increasing need due to federal health cuts.

**In your final budget, we ask you to further this equity commitment with the following:**

**1. We strongly urge the Senate to adopt the House’s proposed coverage for 13,000 Washingtonians in Apple Health Expansion by July 2027.** We know that budget writers recognize that HCA expects enrollment to drop to 5,500 people in December 2026 through attrition, but over 25,000 people are on the waitlist as of last month. In addition, more than 10,000 people became eligible due to Congress stripping federal assistance from low income lawfully present immigrants in January, and over 20,000 will become eligible beginning in October 2026 due to HR 1 taking away federal Medicaid funding. Thank you for taking steps to mitigate the harms of HR 1 by expanding space to the extent possible.

**2. We ask the House to adopt the Senate’s explicit inclusion of interpreter services.** Professional interpreter services are essential to equitable health care and effective, safe care delivery. We believe the House also intended to include interpreter services, consistent with maintaining the current benefit package, and ask for clarification in the final budget.

**3. We have concerns about the House’s proposed report to “reduce services or benefits.”** While we are aware that community need exceeds currently available resources and support creative thinking to consider broad efficiencies to address rising medical costs across the Health Care Authority’s portfolio, the proposition to acquire “savings through a reduction in services or benefits” in immigrant health safety net programs raises concerns. As the federal government turns its back on immigrants and guts social safety nets, we have concerns about an approach that may create a second class program.

**Immigrant Washingtonians already make it possible for Washington to provide a health safety net for all Washingtonians.** Our current financial predicament is exacerbated by Washington’s regressive approach to taxation which must be addressed. By contrast, undocumented Washingtonians contributed [over \\$1 billion in state and local taxes](#) in 2023 with very little access to the social safety net.

All immigrants in Washington paid \$6.5 billion in state and local taxes that year. Immigrant workers contribute an estimated [\\$145 billion to Washington state's GDP per year](#).

At this time when immigrants are persecuted by federal attacks, we stand in solidarity with all Washingtonians and provide equitable access to the health safety net. **We call on (1) the Senate to match the House budget funding for Apple Health Expansion, (2) the House to include language access, (3) both chambers to adopt an equitable approach to future solutions, to build toward ensuring all Washingtonians can access affordable health care.**

Thank you for your commitment to immigrant health equity during this challenging budget environment. We look forward to continuing to partner with you for a Washington that reflects our values.

Sincerely,

AARP Washington  
African Leaders Health Board  
AFT Washington Retirees Chapter  
American Civil Liberties Union of Washington  
American Federation of Teachers Washington  
Asia Pacific Cultural Center  
Asian Counseling and Referral Service  
Asian and Pacific Islander Coalition of Washington  
Asian Pacific Islander Coalition of Pierce County  
Asian Pacific Islander Coalition of Yakima  
Asians for Collective Action  
Asians for Collective Liberation in Spokane  
Association of Washington Housing Authorities  
Better Health Together  
Birchwood Food Desert Fighters  
Brown Berets of the PNW  
Building Changes  
CAIR-WA  
Cedar River Clinics  
Center for Chronic Illness  
El Centro de la Raza  
Changent  
CHAT NW  
Children's Alliance  
Church Council of Greater Seattle  
Columbia Legal Services

Community Action Center Whitman County  
Community Health Network of Washington  
Community Health Plan of Washington  
Cultivate South Park  
Economic Opportunity Institute  
Empower Next Generations  
Faith Action Network  
Financial Empowerment Network  
Firelands Workers United / Trabajadores Unidos  
Foundation for Healthy Generations  
Hand in Hand: The Domestic Employers Network  
Health and Justice Recovery Alliance  
Health Care for All-WA  
Healthcare is a Human Right WA  
HealthierHere  
Hopelink  
Immanuel Community Services  
Indivisible South Puget Sound  
Indivisible Vashon Immigrant/Refugee Rights Group  
Jewish Coalition for Immigrant Justice NW  
Jewish Family Service Seattle  
Kindering  
King County  
King County Promotores Network  
Kitsap Immigrant Assistance Center  
Latino Center for Health at the University of Washington  
Latino Community Fund of Washington State  
Latinos En Spokane  
Latinos Promoting Good Health  
Latinx Health Board  
Lavender Rights Project  
League of Women Voters of Washington  
Legal Counsel for Youth and Children  
Legal Voice  
Mayors Council on African American Elders  
MiA Mujeres in Action  
MultiCare Health System  
Mutual Aid Neighbors in Action  
Seattle Chapter, National Organization for Women (NOW)  
Neighborcare Health  
Neighborhood House

North Seattle Progressives  
Northwest Immigrant Rights Project  
Northwest Health Law Advocates (NoHLA)  
OneAmerica  
Olympic Community Action Partnership  
Opportunity Council  
Pacific Islander Community Association of Washington  
Pacific Islander Health Board of Washington State  
Partners for Our Children  
Patient Coalition of Washington  
Perigee Fund  
Physicians for a National Health Program - Washington State Chapter  
Pierce County Project Access  
A Place for Us  
Planned Parenthood Alliance Advocates  
Planned Parenthood of Greater Washington and North Idaho  
Pro-Choice Washington  
Project Access Northwest  
Puget Sound Advocates for Retirement Action  
QLaw Foundation of Washington  
Quaker Voice on Washington Public Policy  
Queen Anne Helpline  
Refugee and Immigrant Services Northwest  
Save Secular Healthcare Washington  
Seattle Children's  
Seattle Indivisible  
Seattle, King County Area Agency on Aging  
Seattle/King County Coalition on Homelessness  
Seifert Law Offices  
SEIU 775  
Sea Mar Community Health Centers  
Seniors at the Crossroads  
Skagit County Parent to Parent  
Sno-King Speech Inc  
Somali Health Board  
Spokane Community Against Racism  
Spokane Tribal Network  
Statewide Poverty Action Network  
Strengthening Sanctuary Alliance - Thurston County  
Thurston Lewis Mason Central Labor Council  
Toppenish Community Chest

Unidos Nueva Alianza Foundation  
United Way of King County  
University District Food Bank  
Washington Community Action Network (WA CAN)  
Washington Family Engagement  
Washington Healthcare Access Alliance  
WAISN  
Washington Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics  
Washington Low Income Housing Alliance  
WA Partners for Social Change  
WA People's Privacy  
Washington Poor People's Campaign  
Washington School-Based Health Alliance  
Washington State Budget and Policy Center  
Washington State Catholic Conference  
Washington State Coalition for Language Access  
Washington State Community Action Partnership  
Washington State Nurses Association (WSNA)  
Waters Meet Action Fund  
Wenatchee for Immigrant Justice  
Whatcom Center for Early Learning  
WithinReach  
Yakima Housing Authority

cc: Speaker Laurie Jinkins