



# **Overview of 2007 Legislative Session Health & Student Achievement**

# Governor's Priorities for 07 Session

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## ✓ Responsible Budgeting

- Establishing a constitutionally protected Rainy Day Fund

## ✓ Education

- Investing in early learning, K-12 education and higher education

## ✓ Health Care

- Ensuring all children have access to health care by 2010
- Implementing recommendations from the Blue Ribbon Commission on Health Care
- Making prescription drugs more affordable

## ✓ Jobs & Economic Development

- Promoting the development, research and marketing of Washington businesses



# Translating Policy in Budget Priorities

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## Total State Budget - \$33.4 Billion 07-09 Biennium\*

- ✓ Initial deposit of \$165 million into the Rainy Day Fund
- ✓ Increases investments in K-12 education by a total of \$1.8 billion (15% increase in funding per student over last biennium)
- ✓ Expands all-day kindergarten programs (\$51.2 million)
- ✓ Adds 6,000 new general enrollment and 3,700 new high-demand slots for students at our colleges and university (\$118.1 million)
- ✓ Invests \$33.6 million to implement the recommendations of the Commission
- ✓ Improves children health (\$103.9 million)
- ✓ Covers prescription co-pays for seniors on Medicare (\$13.2 million)
- ✓ Increases investment in public health (\$20 million)
- ✓ Turns research in global health, agriculture and alternative fuels into products (\$16.3 million)
- ✓ Invests locally to bring new jobs to Washington and support Innovation Partnership Zones (\$10.1 million)

\* \$64.4 billion including federal/other funds



# A Healthy Next Generation

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“It is impossible to educate an unhealthy child, and it is impossible to keep an uneducated child healthy.” – Former U.S. Surgeon General Joselyn Elders

## Children’s Health Bill (SB 5093) and Budget Highlights:

- ✓ Comprehensive approach to children’s health:
  - Insurance, medical home, parental responsibility, outreach, performance measures, physical activity and nutrition in schools, preventative care.
- ✓ 38,500 more slots for children (\$61.1 million)
- ✓ Increases Medicaid reimbursement rates for pediatric services (\$18.8 million)
- ✓ Increases childhood immunizations (\$23 million)
- ✓ Pilots the Center for Foster Care Health Services (\$600,000)

## Children’s Mental Health Bill (HB 1088)

- ✓ Expanded mental health services in Medicaid (\$5.7 million)



# A Healthy Next Generation

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For information or for an application on children's health coverage, call:

1-877-KIDS-NOW



# Blue Ribbon Commission on Health Care

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## ✓ Goals Adopted by the Commission:

- All Washingtonians have access to health coverage by 2012; all children by 2010.
- Washington will be one of the top ten healthiest states in the nation.
- Population health indicators will be consistent across race, gender and income levels.
- Increased use of evidence-based care brings better health outcomes and satisfaction to consumers.
- The rate of increase in total health care spending will be no more than the growth in personal income.

Report available at: <http://www.governor.wa.gov/priorities/healthcare/>

## ✓ Blue Ribbon Commission Bill Passed (SB 5930)

- Adopts over 20 initiatives, many recommended by the Commission
- \$33.6 million investment in this budget



# Blue Ribbon Commission Bill (SB 5930)

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Build a high-quality, high-performing system:

- ✓ Changing how we reimburse for health care
  - Pay for quality care and prevention
  - Expand chronic care management programs
  - Establish the WA State Quality Forum
  - Encouraging evidence-based medicine
- ✓ Creating health record banks and investing in health information technology
- ✓ Reducing administrative costs and unnecessary ER visits
- ✓ Linking public health funds with performance outcomes



# Blue Ribbon Commission Bill (SB 5930)

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Provide access to that system:

- ✓ Expanding coverage to dependents up to age 25
- ✓ Expanding BHP coverage to foster parents
- ✓ Pursuing Medicaid waivers and/or state plan amendments to expand coverage
- ✓ Improving the state's high-risk pool (WSHIP)
- ✓ Studying a reinsurance program



# Health Insurance Partnership Bill (HB 1569)

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Establishes the Health Insurance Partnership (HIP) within the Health Care Authority

- ✓ Provide premium assistance to eligible employees of small businesses starting September 2008
- ✓ HIP Board to develop broader “Connector” program that:
  - Allows small businesses to purchase coverage through the HIP
  - Is portable
  - Can combine contributions from multiple employers
- ✓ \$3.1 million included in budget



# Access to Prescription Drugs

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## New Washington Prescription Drug Card Program

- ✓ Started March 2007
- ✓ Free discount card, available to all Washington residents
- ✓ Average savings – 60% on generic drugs, 20% on brand name drugs
- ✓ Over 45,000 enrolled so far
- ✓ Free card available online at [www.rx.wa.gov](http://www.rx.wa.gov) or **1-800-913-4146**.



# Targeted Strategies - Health Disparities

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- ✓ Coordinating Council on Health Disparities (2005 legislation) – Report due January 2008
- ✓ Medicaid benefits for newborns - Successful lawsuit against federal government in March
- ✓ Insurance – Targeted outreach to enroll our most vulnerable children (\$4.4 million)
- ✓ Health literacy pilot to give families information about their children’s health (\$442,000)
- ✓ Health navigator pilot to provide “navigators” to those disproportionately at risk for receiving poor health care due to language and cultural barriers (\$1.5 million)



# Targeted Strategies – Achievement Gap

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## Early Learning:

- ✓ Expands our pre-K program (ECEAP) to 2,250 more children (\$34.2 million)
- ✓ Expands all-day kindergarten focusing first on schools with high poverty levels (\$51.2 million)
- ✓ Funds programs to provide culturally appropriate information to families (\$2 million)

## K-12 Education:

- ✓ Expands the PAS program to 12<sup>th</sup> graders struggling to pass the WASL (\$12 million)
- ✓ Expands the Learning Assistance Program by 10% to help students struggling with basic skills (\$16 million)

## Higher Education:

- ✓ Adds funding and expands eligibility for the state's financial aid program (\$47.6 million)
- ✓ Expands academic assistance, mentoring and career planning programs for low-income and first generation students (\$11.2 million)
- ✓ Establishes WA College Bound Scholarships for low-income students with a "C" average to go to college (\$8 million)



# More Work to Do...

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“It was once said that the moral test of government is how that government treats those who are in the dawn of life, the children; those who are in the twilight of life, the elderly; and those who are in the shadows of life, the sick, the needy and the handicapped.”

- Hubert Humphrey

**...Making Changes Families Can Count On.**



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**Thank you.**

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