

Executive Summary: Health Impact Review of SB 6170

Concerning Cultural Competency Education for Health Care Professionals

Evidence indicates that SB 6170 has the potential to increase cultural competency among health care personnel, which in turn has potential to improve health and health care outcomes for diverse patient populations, thereby decreasing health disparities

BILL INFORMATION

Title: Concerning cultural competency education for health care professionals

Sponsors: Senators Keiser, Becker, Pedersen, Cleveland, Hasegawa, McCoy, Kohl-Welles, Frockt, McAuliffe, Kline

Summary of Bill:

- Requires disciplining authorities specified in RCW 18.130.040 to adopt rules requiring health professionals to receive cultural competency continuing education.
- Requires the Department of Health to develop a list of continuing education opportunities related to cultural competency.

HEALTH IMPACT REVIEW

Summary of Findings:

This health impact review found the following evidence regarding the provisions in SB 6170:

- Strong evidence that cultural competency training for health care professionals improves the cultural relevance of care.
- Strong evidence that culturally relevant care improves health and health care outcomes and decreases health disparities.
- Strong evidence that culturally relevant care increases patient satisfaction.
- Some evidence that cultural competency training for health care professionals increases patient satisfaction.
- Some evidence that patient satisfaction is associated with improved health and health care outcomes..
- Minimal evidence directly indicating that cultural competency training for health care professionals improves health and health care outcomes and decreases health disparities (few studies have examined the direct link between training and health outcomes).

FULL REVIEW

For review methods, a logic model showing the potential pathways between the bill and decreased health disparities, strength-of-evidence analyses, and citations of empirical evidence refer to the full health impact review which can be found at:

<http://sboh.wa.gov/Portals/7/Doc/HealthImpactReviews/HIR-2014-01-SB6170.pdf>

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