



**DATE:** November 13, 2013

**TO:** Washington State Board of Health Members

**FROM:** Stephen Kutz, Board Member

**SUBJECT:** BRIEFING—HEALTH IMPACT REVIEWS

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### **Background and Summary:**

A health impact review evaluates a proposed state legislative or budgetary change to determine whether the implemented proposal would have a positive or negative impact on health disparities. Under RCW 43.20.285, the Board is required to complete health impact reviews in collaboration with the Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities if a review is requested by a legislator or the Governor.

In 2006 the Board approved the forms and procedures for requesting a health impact review. Between January 2007 and April 2009, Board of Health staff completed seven health impact reviews. These included reviews of both policy and budget proposals and covered the following topics:

- education
- language access
- financial development
- budget cuts to health and human services

Completed reviews are publically available on the Board's website.

Due to budget constraints health impact review funds were suspended for the duration of the 2009-2011 biennium, and then again in the 2011-2013 biennium. Health impact review funding was restored in the 2013-2015 biennial operating budget. With funding reinstated for health impact reviews, it will be important to assure the Governor's office and legislators are aware that they can resume requesting health impact reviews. Health impact reviews will enable the Board to inform legislators on the important health impacts of policies that may not at first appear to directly relate to health—such as proposals that impact education, transportation, housing, and income. In the past, Board members have played an essential role in assisting staff with the development of health impact reviews by sharing their expertise on various issues.

During today's briefing, Board staff will provide an overview of health impact reviews, discuss plans to raise awareness of the reviews as a tool for legislators and the Governor, and present a revised form and process for requesting reviews for the Board's consideration.

### **Recommended Board Action:**

The Board may choose to consider, amend if necessary, and adopt the following motion:

*The Board approves the revised form and process for requesting a health impact review as submitted on November 13, 2013.*

**Staff Contact:** Sierra Rotakhina

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