



**DATE:** March 12, 2014  
**TO:** Washington State Board of Health Members  
**FROM:** John Austin, Chair  
**SUBJECT:** HEALTH IMPACT REVIEWS—UPDATE AND FINDINGS

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### **Background and Summary:**

A health impact review is an objective analysis of how a proposed legislative or budgetary change will likely impact health and health disparities in Washington. Under RCW 43.20.285, the Board is given authority 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.

Prior to and during the 2014 state legislative session Board staff conducted outreach to inform legislators and the Governor's Office that funding had been restored to conduct health impact reviews. Staff met with nearly 40 legislators, the Governor's health policy staff, and other community stakeholders.

Staff conducted five health impact reviews immediately prior to and during session. These included reviews of the following bills and budget request:

- SHB 1680 on closing the educational opportunity gap
- SB 6170 concerning cultural competency education for health care professionals
- HB 2451 restricting sexual orientation change efforts
- SSB 6439 preventing harassment, intimidation, and bullying in public schools
- Community health centers' capital budget request

All completed health impact reviews are available on the Board website.

During today's briefing, Board staff will provide an overview of the outreach strategies used to promote this resource, health impact review findings, and information on how legislators used the reviews during session.

### **Recommended Board Action:**

*No action required.*

**Staff Contact:** Sierra Rotakhina