

Executive Summary: Health Impact Review of Sections 7 and 8 of SB 6029 Provisions Addressing Establishing a Living Wage

Evidence indicates that the provisions of SB 6029 that increase minimum wage (sections 7 and 8) would likely increase incomes and improve health outcomes for low-wage workers, thereby decreasing health disparities by income and race/ethnicity as well as health disparities faced by rural Washingtonians.

BILL INFORMATION

Sponsor: Senator Miloscia

Summary of Sections 7 and 8 of SB 6029:

- Describes the intent of these sections to establish a minimum wage that “allow[s] employees to support themselves and their families with dignity and...enables employees to provide for the basic needs of their families and, therefore, not rely on social services provided by the state and paid for by state taxpayers” (section 7).
- Provides that Washington will continue to increase the state minimum wage annually with the rate of inflation, but that in any year that 1) the previous calendar year per capita personal income increased over the year before and 2) was higher than the per capita personal income for the United States, the state minimum wage will increase by the rate of inflation plus three percent (section 8).
- Currently the Washington state minimum wage is increased annually by the rate of inflation.

HEALTH IMPACT REVIEW

Summary of Findings:

This health impact review found the following evidence regarding sections 7 and 8 of SB 6029:

- Strong evidence that increasing minimum wage by the rate of inflation plus 3% in any year when specific criteria are met will increase income for low-wage workers.
- Very strong evidence that increasing wages for low-wage workers will improve health outcomes for these employees and their families.
- Very strong evidence that improving health outcomes for low-wage workers and their families will decrease health disparities by income and race/ethnicity as well as health disparities faced by rural Washingtonians.

FULL REVIEW

For review methods, logic model, strength-of-evidence analyses, and citations of empirical evidence refer to the full health impact review:

<http://sboh.wa.gov/Portals/7/Doc/HealthImpactReviews/HIR-2015-07-SB6029.pdf>

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