



# HEALTH CARE IS A HUMAN RIGHT WASHINGTON

We, the people of Washington State, come together to secure the fundamental right to health care for all individuals. It is not a privilege or a commodity. We must act now to create a health care system that promotes public health and the general welfare through laws, policies, and financing guided and shaped by human rights principles.

## What human rights principles guide us and what do they mean?

### Universal Access

Everybody in. Nobody out. **Universal** means everyone has **access** to healthcare.

### Affordability

There are no financial barriers. Everyone can **afford** to use the health care system and access all needed care.

### Availability

Facilities, goods and services, including trained professionals, are **available** to all.

### Participation

Individuals and communities are able to **participate** actively in the decisions that affect their health, including the development and delivery of health care services.

### Accountability

Each part of the health system ensures **accountability** to patients and the community with appropriate staffing, standards, monitoring and remedies.

### Transparency

Information about the healthcare system is **transparent**, understandable and readily available to all. People have easy access to their personal health information.

### Equity

Health care services are delivered in an **equitable** way, addressing the unique needs and health risks of each human being.

### Equality

There is **equality** for all, without discrimination. The dignity and cultural traditions of patients are respected.

### Quality

Each individual enjoys the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, receiving the right care at the right place and at the right time – safe and high **quality** care.