It's time to take the next step with our healthcare system

Washington has long been a model for forward-thinking leadership when it comes to healthcare. However, we still need to take action to ensure every resident has quality health coverage that is both affordable and accessible.

- **The Affordable Care Act (ACA) was a step forward.** Because of the Affordable Care Act, more than half of uninsured in WA are now covered, more people have access to free preventive services, and no one can be denied coverage for a pre-existing condition.
- **The ACA doesn't cover everyone.** One in ten Washingtonians are still living without health insurance. Some plans available for purchase on the healthcare exchanges are insufficient to actually pay for the cost of care.
- **Many insurance plans have high deductibles and other out-of-pocket costs, leaving even insured patients with huge bills for healthcare.** A family of four on an ACA Silver health insurance plan can face costs up to an annual out-of-pocket maximum of $100,000 each year. The CDC estimates that 20% of non-elderly adults in America are living with medical debt.
- **People are dying from lack of access to care.** 45,000 Americans die each year from being uninsured.
- **Our healthcare system reinforces racial division in our society.** 30% of African-Americans reported trouble paying medical bills in the last year, and a third of Latinos said they had used up their savings to pay for medical costs.

Intent to Cover All: Continuing Washington's legacy as a healthcare innovator

In 2005, the legislature declared that all kids in Washington should be covered by 2010, which led to the successful Apple Health for Kids program. A decade later, let's take another step forward to acknowledge that all Washingtonians should have access to health coverage.

"Intent to Cover All" legislation (**HB 1321/SB 5305**) declares intent that all Washington residents have health coverage by 2020. This legislation furthers us down the path to a more just healthcare system that works for everyone.

- This bill recognizes our values as a state, where we believe that everyone should have access to health care, and not just when in crisis.
- This bill also recognizes that our current health care system is unsustainable, where patients put off needed care until it is life-threatening and costly. By opening access to preventative care, we save lives and money.
- We are establishing our intent to create a system that lives up to our values. This bill does not include a mandate or cost the state anything.

For more information, please visit www.healthcareisarightwa.org or contact Tatsuko Go Hollo at tatsuko@eoionline.org.