



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

Full range of benefits as well as facilities and services—including patients' free choice of 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.