



WOMA LEGISLATIVE ISSUES FOR 2025 DO DAY

2025 Topics of Interest to the Washington Osteopathic Medical Association

Opposition to Scope of Practice Expansion

WOMA opposes SB 5411 and SB 5112 unless they include necessary education and training to ensure patient safety and high-quality care.

SB 5411

Brief Summary of Bill: Grants pharmacists authority to prescribe drugs and devices and Naturopaths prescriptive authority for Schedule II-V drugs, including opioids.

Concerns: Pharmacists' training lacks the comprehensive medical judgement needed for complex health conditions, risking misdiagnosis and inappropriate treatments. Naturopaths lack adequate medical and pharmacological training for prescribing dangerous drugs, leading to potential adverse outcomes.

SB 5112

Brief Summary of Bill: Would allow psychologists to prescribe psychotropic medications.

Concerns: Psychotropic medications require high expertise due to complex interactions with other drugs and health conditions, posing risks without extensive medical training.

Education & Training Requirements: Physicians (MD or DO) include 4 years of graduate-level education, 3-7 years residency/fellowship, and 12,000-16,000 patient care hours. Other professions have significantly fewer education hours and patient care experience, risking patient safety and care quality

Reducing Prior Authorization Process

WOMA supports HB 1566/SB 5395 to streamline the prior authorization process, reduce administrative burdens, and protect patient access to timely care.

HB 1566/SB 5395

Brief Summary of Bill: Ensures licensed healthcare providers make medical decisions, improving care quality by allowing professionals with direct patient knowledge to determine medical necessity; Requires insurers to disclose prior authorization policies and changes promptly, reducing confusion and administrative burdens; Prohibits insurers from retroactively denying coverage for previously authorized services, ensuring patients and providers are not left with unexpected costs.

Economic Impact: According to the Council for Affordable Quality Healthcare, approximately \$16.4 billion is wasted annually due to prior authorization burdens. By streamlining the process, HB 1566/SB 5395 aims to reduce these costs and reinvest in patient care.

Healthcare Workforce: Reducing administrative workload allows providers to focus on delivering quality care, alleviating workforce shortages.

WOMA LEGISLATIVE ISSUES FOR 2025 DO DAY

WOMA Executive Committee President

Monica Haines, DO

Vice President

Stan Flemming, DO

Secretary/Treasurer

David Farrell, DO

Immediate Past President

Mark Baldwin, DO

Washington Osteopathic Medical Association

Executive Director

Roseanne Andersen

Division of Professional Affairs

John Finch, DO

Division of Membership

Crystal Martin, DO

Division of Public Affairs

Garrett Jeffery, DO



2025 Topics of Interest to the Washington Osteopathic Medical Association

Improving Medicaid Parity and Payment Rates

WOMA supports HB 1392/SB 5372 to promote access to care and fund needed investments in Washington's Medicaid program.

HB 1392/ SB 5372 Medicaid Access Program

Medicaid expansion has increased insurance coverage for 25% of Washington's population, However, meaningful access to medical services remains a challenge due to inadequate reimbursement rates. The Medicaid Access Program aims to address this by increasing Medicaid reimbursement rates for primary and specialty care services. **Inadequate Reimbursement Rates:** Current rates hinder access to critical health services, leading to preventable emergency room visits and worsening health outcomes. **Investment Mechanism:** A covered lives assessment will maximize federal matching funds, increasing investment in Medicaid rates by approximately \$400 million annually, bringing rates to Medicare equivalents. **Access to Care:** Improved rates will encourage more providers to participate in Medicaid networks, enhancing access to care for underserved and rural communities and people of color dependent on Medicaid.

Impact

Economic Impact: Increasing Medicaid rates will reduce financial strain on providers and ensure timely, appropriate care for patients, improving health outcomes and reducing healthcare costs,

Healthcare Workforce: Adequate reimbursement rates will enable more providers to participate in the Medicaid program, ensuring patients have access to a broader range of healthcare services without causing financial losses for providers.