

Medicaid Access Program: Partner Action Plan

Washington state's Medicaid reimbursement rates are some of the worst in the nation, falling far short of the cost of providing care. For patients, the result is difficulty getting appointments, delays in care, and worsening health conditions. For doctors, the result is frustration and burnout, as most practices simply cannot afford to see the number of Medicaid patients in their communities who need care.

Building off of WSMA's success in recent legislative sessions in increasing Medicaid reimbursement for some primary care, pediatric, and behavioral health services, the WSMA is asking the Washington Legislature to pass House Bill 1392 and Senate Bill 5372, the Medicaid Access Program, which will increase Medicaid rates across the board for all physicians in all settings to at least the equivalents paid by Medicare.

We know that to be successful we'll need the full support of the physician and practice community. Use this partner action plan to help support the Medicaid Access Program and HB 1392 and SB 5372 in your community.

WAYS YOUR CLINIC, MEDICAL GROUP, OR SOCIETY CAN HELP

Share your group's support with your local legislative delegation

The WSMA's #1 ask of our partners is that they share their support for the Medicaid Access Program and HB 1392 and SB 5372 with their local legislators.

Visit our Medicaid campaign website at takeaction.wsma.org to send a message. Urge your legislators in the House and Senate to support the Medicaid patients in your area with equivalent access to health care services as those with private insurance by passing the Medicaid Access Program in HB 1392 and SB 5372.

You can send a message to your lawmakers at any time, and stay tuned for calls to action from the WSMA during the legislative session.

Share your group's support with your local media, via op-eds, letters to the editor, tips to reporters

Media coverage is important for establishing the extent of local impact on access to care. Sharing your support with local media is an excellent way to reach legislators as well as the public to help educate them on these issues.

- **Letters to the editor (200 words)** – Submitting a letter to the editor is an excellent way to put a face to the problem. Your letter can be in response to a local story run in the media outlet, although that's not required.
- **Opinion/editorial (600 words)** – Submitting an op-ed to the media outlet that serves your community is an ideal way to reach both your local legislators and community. Try to lead with a real-life patient story to help humanize the impact on patients.
- **Tips to reporters** – Contacting a reporter, introducing yourself, and telling your story can help to educate them on complex issues. Be polite and respectful, and remember that, while a story may not be forthcoming, your goal is to serve as a source of information—the reporter may then call on you in the future.

Medicaid Access Program: Partner Action Plan

WAYS YOUR CLINIC, MEDICAL GROUP, OR SOCIETY CAN HELP

Share your group's support with your staff, members, and patients.

To assist you, the WSMA has resources and data ready for your use at takeaction.wsma.org.

- takeaction.wsma.org - Campaign website
- takeaction.wsma.org/share-your-story – Legislator call to action
- Medicaid Access Program: Fact Sheet
- Access to Care for Medicaid Patients: Fact Sheet
- Supporting data
- Patient survey data on Medicaid access to primary and specialty care
- Recent media coverage of low Medicaid reimbursement and impacts on access to care

Download, print, and share these resources with your staff, your members, and your patients to help amplify our support for the Medicaid Access Program in HB 1392 and SB 5372. If you have any questions on these materials, contact WSMA Director of Communications Graham Short at gfs@wsma.org.

STAY CONNECTED

Share your plans for advocating and keep us apprised of how your organization is supporting the Medicaid Access Program by reaching out to WSMA Director of Government Affairs Sean Graham at sean@wsma.org.

Visit takeaction.wsma.org to learn more about the Medicaid Access Program and how to lend your support today.