

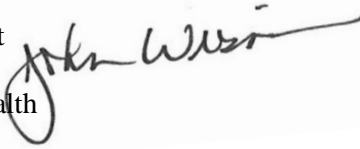


STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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October 9, 2017

TO: David Schumacher, Director
Office of Financial Management

FROM: John Wiesman, Secretary of Health 

SUBJECT: Department of Health 2018 Supplemental Operating Budget Submittal

I've attached the department's 2018 supplemental operating budget request. This submittal focuses exclusively on technical corrections to the currently enacted budget and only the highest priority policy enhancements.

The department considered many alternatives and proposals to preserve and promote public health priorities. The relatively few decision packages included in this budget request reflect the highest priority items for the Governor's consideration:

- Contracting for hospital patient data will allow the department to continue providing data used to inform critical health and health policy decisions.
- Providing the funding necessary to certify and regulate the homecare aide profession will help maintain a sufficient in-home care workforce, allowing individuals who need these supports to receive services in their own homes rather than more costly out-of-home settings.
- Supporting local water system operations will increase access to clean and reliable drinking water in small, rural communities.
- Improving immunization data quality will ultimately help improve coverage rates and mitigate impacts of vaccine preventable disease outbreaks.
- Establishing a standard and comprehensive training framework for Community Health Workers will increase access to healthcare services in key regions, health systems, and communities.
- Providing maintenance funding for the Early Hearing Detection, Diagnosis, and Intervention will assure the state continues to screen essentially all newborns for hearing loss.

The public health system has many needs in addition to those that have been identified in the agency's 2018 supplemental budget. However, the current needs represent those investments that need to be made now. Ongoing, the department will continue to work with stakeholders to identify efficient and cost-effective solutions that help families in Washington stay healthy.

I believe this supplemental budget request is a sensible plan that reflects our public health values. I look forward to discussing these issues.

Attachment

cc: Bryce Andersen, Office of Financial Management
Jason McGill, Office of Financial Management