



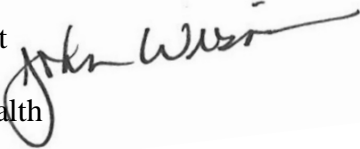
STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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September 16, 2016

TO: David Schumacher, Director
Office of Financial Management

FROM: John Wiesman, Secretary of Health 

SUBJECT: Department of Health 2017-19 Biennial Operating Budget Submittal

The Department of Health's 2017-19 budget request recognizes the state's extraordinary fiscal challenge to address mandatory caseload *and* cost growth and spending increases for education and other services.

The department has taken seriously the mandate for agencies to find ways to manage budgets without increased funding, and has worked diligently to reduce costs and increase efficiency while continuing to deliver quality services to Washington's citizens. At the same time, the department recognizes that public health funding has declined over the past 16 years. Per capita public health spending in local jurisdictions has decreased from \$65.15 in 1998 to \$52.94 in 2014. The system is no longer able to meet all of the basic responsibilities to provide the essential public health services to all residents of our state.

Given the state of the public health system, it is imperative that the Department of Health request an investment into the foundation of the public health system. This investment in critical gaps in core public health services will provide the first step to stabilize and modernize the public health system. It includes funding for state and local health's highest priority needs, resources to implement a modernization plan, and two service delivery pilots to ensure we are maximizing government efficiency and effectiveness.

The remaining Department of Health budget consists of only the highest priority general fund-state requests:

- Continuing the Healthiest Next Generation initiative.
- Responding to the Hepatitis C epidemic.
- Addressing lead concerns as outlined in Governor Inslee's Directive 16-06.
- Mitigating climate change's effect on public health impacts from climate change.
- Providing new training to healthcare providers.
- Complying with WaTech's request to consolidate our data center.

David Schumacher
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While this budget does request additional funds, it has been very judiciously crafted to ensure that only the most critical needs are addressed while remaining respectful to the statewide fiscal challenges. I look forward to discussing the issues identified in the submittal.

Attachment

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