

### Week 3

The third week of session proved to be even more busy than the previous with 1,830 bills introduced in total so far. Mental health issues are still high on everyone's radar, with everything coming back to the lack of funding to implement programs that could lead to solutions. Everyone is looking for money, and there's not enough to go around. If a bill hasn't moved out of their house of origin by February 7th, the bill is considered dead. This next week will be full of bills being "exec'd" out of committees or remaining there to die. You can see which bills will be coming up for a vote or a hearing on the bill tracking list. Once cut off is over, the list of viable bills will drastically shrink, and the legislature will move on to floor action. After a bill is heard on the floor, and it is voted out, it goes over to the opposite house of origin and the process starts over.

I had a meeting Rep. Tarleton to discuss moving 2582 <https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?Year=2019&BillNumber=2582> through her committee. She was very interested in helping find a solution to the increase in B&O taxes on health care providers and also sees this bill as a way to allow more access for those who may not be able to afford it on their own. I have another meeting planned with her on February 3rd and will hopefully get more information.

SB 6588 (Updating the children's mental health work group.) Was going to be up for a hearing today but was unexpectedly removed from the list. I am trying to figure out why that happened as WMHCA is trying to be included in this work group. It's not very often that a bill is removed in such a way so I will be investigating the causes and will report back.

I had meetings with Rep. Pettigrew, Rep. Ormsby, Rep. Frame, Rep. Goodman, Sen. Becker, Sen. Rivers, Sen. Conway and Sen. Mullet, Sen. Cleveland to discuss our key issues. There was no BHC meeting this past week, but I did attend the Senate/House Republican/Democrat business lobbyist meetings to see if there was anything relevant to WMHCA. Often these meetings bring up budget related issues and can often lead to more information about sources of potential funding. At this point, it seems to appear that everyone is trying to get a sip from the firehose but it's running dry.

We will know more about what we can firmly advocate for once the cut off date passes and the bills that will realistically have a chance to pass will be more apparent.

Sara Stewart  
Melanie Stewart and Associates  
HPC Advocacy  
Cascade Government Affairs  
360-229-8168