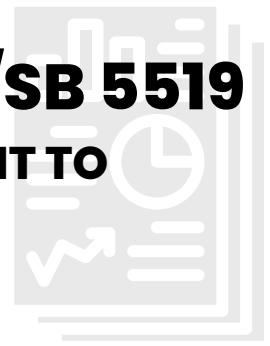


# FACT SHEET: HB 1508/SB 5519

## STRENGTHEN STATE OVERSIGHT TO LOWER HEALTH CARE COSTS



Too many people in our state still can't afford health care—yet we keep seeing large price increases from drug companies, major health systems, and insurers. It's time to establish stronger oversight from Washington's Health Care Cost Transparency Board, so patients, workers, and employers can get the health care they need without fear of financial ruin.

### THE PROBLEM: TRANSPARENCY ALONE IS NOT ENOUGH

Health care prices have been increasing sharply for years:

- Debt collectors are chasing nearly [400,000 residents](#) for medical bills
- In a recent survey of Washington residents, [81%](#) reported being worried about affording health care
- WA is ranked [44th worst in the country](#) for the average cost of a hospital stay
- Inflation is hurting consumers—[a record number delayed care](#) due to cost in 2022
- More than [20% of our state budget](#) now goes to health care costs

**Washington residents are ready for change: [82%](#) support government limits on health care spending and penalizing payers or providers that fail to curb excessive spending growth.**

A lack of accountability and enforcement is allowing health care prices to keep rising unchecked, and it is consumers and employers who are left paying the bills. In 2020, the Legislature created the [Health Care Cost Transparency Board](#) to evaluate rising health care costs and create a plan to reduce spending. However, it doesn't have all the authority it needs to make real change.

### THE SOLUTION: STRENGTHEN THE HEALTH CARE COST TRANSPARENCY BOARD

We need to give Washington's Health Care Cost Transparency Board the tools it needs to get to the bottom of what's ailing our state's health care system. With [HB 1508/SB 5519](#), WA will join peer states like MA, OR, and CA with expert-recommended solutions to strengthen the Board by:

- Improving rulemaking and data collection authority
- Tracking consumer underinsurance
- Evaluating how profit accumulation and nonprofit tax breaks contribute to spending
- Holding high-priced outliers accountable, as needed

**Please support [HB 1508/SB 5519](#).**