

# Legislative Overview: 2020

## Top Priorities



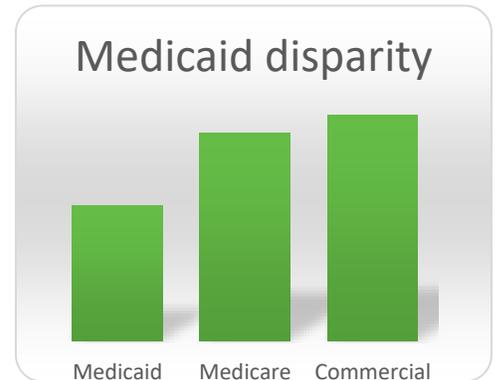
The Washington Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics represents nearly 1,200 pediatric providers working to build a foundation for a lifetime of health and well-being for all children in Washington.

### Health Care Access for ALL Children

#### Bring pediatric Medicaid reimbursement to parity with Medicare rates.

In Washington 1 in every 2 children has Medicaid coverage, but Medicaid payment doesn't cover the cost of care, so clinics throughout the state have been forced to discontinue or limit care to children on Apple Health.

- Bring pediatric Medicaid to parity with Medicare to improve access to care for Washington children, and prevent chronic disease and avoidable emergency room visits. *\$24m GFS/year.*



**Improve access to behavioral health care for children.** Behavioral health disorders affect up to 1 in 5 children, yet 80 percent of kids in need go without treatment. Early identification and timely treatment are critical for healthy development. Mental health problems that begin in childhood can persist or worsen over time: 50% of adults with mental health disorders have symptoms by age 14, 75% by age 24.

- Bring Medicaid counseling rates to parity with Medicare to increase behavioral health integration for children in primary care. *\$15m GFS/year.*
- Extend funding for [Washington's Mental Health Referral Service for Children and Teens](#) for six months to align with the state's fiscal year and avoid a lapse in this critical service. *\$493,650/6 months.*

### A Healthy Start for Moms & Babies

**Support during a baby's first year of life.** Family well-being during the first year of a baby's life is critical for children's lifetime health, education and economic outcomes.

- Extend post-partum coverage on Medicaid from 60 days to one year. The leading cause of pregnancy-related deaths in our state is untreated behavioral health needs. A child whose mother receives treatment and support for post-partum mood disorders is more likely to be ready for school, with improved behavioral health. **HB 2381 (Stonier)/SB 6128 (Randall)/SB 6106 (O'Ban)**

### End the Dangerous Vaping Epidemic

**Teen vaping** is an epidemic, with more than 6 million users ages 11-21. Current devices deliver significantly more nicotine than previous generations and come in flavors specifically designed to appeal to young people.

#### HB 2454 (Pollet)/SB 6254 (Kuderer)

- Reduce youth vaping by increasing the tax on vape products commensurate with tax on cigarettes.
- Reduce appeal to youth by banning all flavorings in e-cigarette/vape products, including menthol.
- Re-apportion tax revenue from e-cigarette sales to include prevention and enforcement of age restrictions on purchase.