

August 15, 2023

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Jesse Wolff  
Office of the Insurance Commissioner  
5000 Capitol Blvd SE  
Tumwater, WA 98501

RE: Consolidated health care rulemaking CR-101

Dear Ms. Wolff,

On behalf of the Washington State Medical Association (WSMA) and our more than 11,000 physician and physician assistant members, thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the Office of the Insurance Commissioner's (OIC) consolidated rulemaking – specifically the work around SB 5036 (telemedicine), SB 5242 (cost sharing for abortion), and SB 5396 (cost sharing for diagnostic and supplemental breast exams). The WSMA supported all three bills when they were in front of the legislature, and we encourage the OIC to implement all three to the full extent authorized by the legislature.

SB 5036 (telemedicine) extends a critical deadline for physician practices by allowing audio and video technology to establish a patient relationship through July 1, 2024. This is an important flexibility for physicians and patients as we move out of the COVID-19 pandemic. SB 5242 (cost sharing for abortion) and SB 5396 (cost sharing for diagnostic and supplemental breast exams) will both ensure that cost is not a barrier to patients seeking health care services.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on this CR- 101. We appreciate the OIC's attention to the implementation of this package of bills and look forward to continued engagement. Should you have any follow-up questions, please contact [WSMA Associate Policy Director Billie Dickinson](#).

Sincerely,

*Billie Dickinson*

Billie Dickinson  
Associate Policy Director  
Washington State Medical Association