

Open Arms firmly believes that equity is a birthright and that healing solutions come from within communities. Each year, we prioritize legislation to reduce racial disparities in perinatal and infant health, improve essential support for families, and increase equitable access to healthcare. We work alongside partner organizations to advance birth equity and health justice at the local, state, and federal levels.

open arms
perinatal services

MATERNAL & INFANT HEALTH

HB 2329 - Concerning midwife supervision of medical assistants and lactation consultants - Rep. Barnard

Adds licensed midwives to the list of health care practitioners who may supervise medical assistants, and clarifies that licensed midwives and lactation consultants may coordinate care.

Preserve funding for 12-months postpartum coverage for those who qualify for Medicaid because of pregnancy.

Preserve funding for a doula hub to assist those seeking doula credentials.

INFANT MENTAL HEALTH, EARLY CHILDHOOD & EARLY LEARNING

HB 2429 - Supporting children and youth behavioral health - Rep. Callan

This bill takes the first steps to initiate Washington Thriving, the WA State strategic plan for children's behavioral health, ages P-25. The plan was initiated by the Children & Youth Behavioral Health Work Group and has been in the works for three years.

Restore funding to the PAL (Partnership Access Line) at Seattle Children's/UW

PAL is a child behavioral health referral service for families as well as a psychiatric consult line for primary care providers. PAL also provides education modules to anyone interested in behavioral health intervention for kids.

Preserve funding for home visiting programming

EQUITABLE ACCESS TO CARE

HB 2242/SB 5967 - Preserving access to preventive services by clarifying state authority and definitions (Rep. Bronoske/Sen. Cleveland)

Rather than deferring to federal bodies, childhood vaccine recommendations and preventative services definitions are transferred to the state Department of Health.

JUSTICE & SAFE COMMUNITIES

HB 2523 - Concerning the Community Reinvestment Program - Rep. Reeves

The legislature directs investigation into whether current funds are being distributed equitably.

SB 5906 - Secure and Accountable Federal Enforcement (SAFE) Act — Rep. Hansen

This bill prohibits the collection of immigration status by schools and early learning, and requires a warrant from federal agents to access non-public areas of education, health care, and county auditor facilities.

SB 6212 - Creating a families with children benefit pilot program. - Sen. Nobles

Up to 1000 families would receive \$300/month per child in this pilot program. The program would be evaluated for participating families' financial stability and net worth following receipt of the benefit, impacts on child and family well-being, and recommendations regarding the potential expansion of a universal child benefit.

SB 6081 - Protecting Washingtonians from invasion of privacy, including the unauthorized disclosure of sex designation information and historic sex designation changes in official government records - Sen. Pedersen

This bill protects sex designation markers on state-issued documents, like driver's licenses and IDs, from being shared.

SB 5292 - Concerning paid family and medical leave rates - Sen. Conway

This improved system for setting rates will provide stability and solvency for the program that our state's families depend on.

SB 5098/HB 1152 Restricting the possession of weapons on the premises of state or local public buildings, parks or playground facilities where children are likely to be present, and county fairs and county fair facilities - Sen. Valdez/Rep. Doglio

HB 2345 /SB 5292 Concerning contributions in the state paid family and medical leave program - Rep. Schmidt/Sen. Conway, which will create a better system for setting Paid Family & Medical Leave rates. This change will provide stability and solvency for the program that our state's families need.

HB 2105 -Concerning immigrant worker protections - Rep. Ortiz-Self

Requires an employer to notify its workers within 72 hours of receiving a Federal Notice of Inspection of Employment Eligibility Verification Forms I-9

