

February 9, 2025

Washington State Legislature Senate Rules Committee P.O. Box 40466 Olympia, WA 98504-0466

Via Electronic Correspondence

RE: Senate Bill 5084 - Concerning health carrier reporting

Dear Senate Rules Committee,

Aimed Alliance is a not-for-profit health policy organization that seeks to protect and enhance the rights of healthcare consumers and providers. We are writing to express our support for Senate Bill 5084, which would require health carriers to annually report primary care expenditures and enhance transparency in healthcare spending.

Primary care services, such as preventive services, medical exams, and chronic disease management, are central to an effective and efficient healthcare system. Research demonstrates that greater investment in primary care leads to improved patient outcomes, reduced healthcare disparities, and overall cost savings by improving health management and decreasing the need for emergency care.¹ However, current reports indicate that primary care is underfunded, leaving patients with inadequate access to essential services and increasing long-term costs.²

By mandating annual reporting of primary care expenditures, S.B. 5084 will increase transparency on how health carriers fund primary care services. This transparency will provide policymakers with data to support evidence-based healthcare reform to ensure health carriers prioritize preventative and primary care and encourage greater investment in these services to manage and improve health outcomes. Thus, S.B. 5084 will help foster a healthcare system that prioritizes preventive care, promotes efficiency, and improves health outcomes for Washington residents.

In conclusion, Aimed Alliance supports this legislation and urges the Committee to swiftly this legislation to enhance transparency in healthcare spending. We appreciate the opportunity to provide written comments. If you have any questions or would like to further discuss our concerns. Please contact us at <u>policy@aimedalliance.org</u>.

Sincerely,

Olivia Backhaus Staff Attorney

¹ Patient-Centered Primary Care Collaborative and the Robert Graham Center, Investing in Primary Care: A State-Level Analysis (Jul. 2019), https://www.graham-center.org/content/dam/rgc/documents/publicationsreports/reports/Investing-Primary-Care-State-Level-PCMH-Report.pdf

 $^{^{2}}$ Id.