

# SB5830/HB1270 establishing a WASHINGTON COMMISSION on BOYS & MEN

## WHAT IT IS

SB 5830 and HB 1270 aim to create a Washington State Commission on Boys and Men. The Commission will assemble data and experts; connect public, private, and nonprofit partners; consult with state agencies and established commissions; and make recommendations for policies and programs to help improve the well-being of Washington's boys, male youth, and men.

### 5 FOCUS AREAS



**MENTAL & PHYSICAL HEALTH**



**EDUCATION**



**JOBS, CAREERS & FINANCIAL HEALTH**



**FATHERHOOD, FAMILY & RELATIONSHIPS**



**COURT SYSTEMS**

"Our boys need encouragement. They need to know we really care about them and that reaching out for help isn't weakness. Washington can become the very first state to focus serious attention on their well-being with this proposed commission."

—Jen Shevitz, Everett, Let Me Run wellness program for boys

"As a 20+ year member of Laborers Local 242, I've seen firsthand the struggle that men in the construction industry face trying to provide for their families. Addictions to drugs or alcohol and even suicides are too common among us. A commission to focus on these issues would give hope to our members."

—Billy Hetherington, Seattle, Laborers Local 242

### Prime Sponsors

**SB 5830:** Sen. John Lovick (D)

**HB 1270:** Rep. Mary Dye (R)

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

To help advocate for establishing a Commission on Boys and Men, email [info@waboy sandmen.org](mailto:info@waboy sandmen.org) or call/text 425-406-0941. For more information, visit the campaign website at [waboy sandmen.org](http://waboy sandmen.org).

## WHY IT MATTERS

Boys and men are half the population, and they are struggling. Whether looking at suicides, drug overdoses, homelessness, incarceration, or dropout rates, something is going on with our guys. And their problems impact all of us.

"We cannot leave a vacuum by neglecting boys and men's issues. If there are real problems in a society, and responsible people don't acknowledge and address them, irresponsible people will exploit them. We're already seeing that happen."

—Richard Reeves, American Institute for Boys and Men

## WASHINGTON MALES ARE:

### DYING BY SUICIDE

78% of deaths by suicide under age 25

77% of all deaths by suicide

### OVERDOSING

71% of drug overdoses

72% of opioid overdoses

66% of alcohol abuse deaths

### INCARCERATED

94% of the prison population

91% of youth in juvenile rehabilitation

### HOMELESS

63% of the homeless

70% of the unsheltered

### UNINSURED

65% of uninsured nonelderly adults

### FAILING IN SCHOOL

60% of high school dropouts

50% of boys aren't meeting ELA standards in grades 3-8

### UNDERREPRESENTED IN

Mental health counseling 25% male

Elementary education 18% male

Social Work 16% male

Sources: CDC, Kaiser Family Foundation, OSPI, WA Departments of Health, Commerce, Corrections, and Children, Youth & Families