



SB5446/HB1266 STATE COMMISSION on BOYS & MEN

WHAT IT IS

SB 5446 and HB 1266 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 5446 Sen. John Lovick (D)
HB 1266 Rep. Mary Dye (R)

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.

WASHINGTON MALES ARE:

DYING BY SUICIDE

75% of deaths by suicide under age 25
78% of all deaths by suicide

OVERDOSING

73% of drug overdoses
74% 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

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.