



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
HEALTH SYSTEMS QUALITY ASSURANCE
PO Box 47850, Olympia, WA 98504-7850

Date: July 18, 2023

Dear Tribal Leader:

I am writing today to provide information about the Department of Health (department) considering amendments to several rules for the home care aide profession. This may include WACs [246-980-010](#), [246-980-025](#), [246-980-040](#), [246-980-100](#), [246-980-110](#), [246-980-115](#), and [246-980-140](#) in [Chapter 246-980 WAC, Home care aide rules](#).

The department is considering amendments to the home care aide rules in response to the statutory changes made by [E2SHB 1694](#) and [E2SSB 5278](#), both passed in 2023 legislative session. These bills focus on reducing barriers which keep home care aides from entering the workforce, encouraging retention, and improving the exam process. Other updates may also be made based on discussions with partners and interested parties.

For additional information and to provide written feedback, contact Tracie Drake, Home Care Aide Program Manager, at tracie.drake@doh.wa.gov.

For tribal relations issues, please contact the department's Tribal Relations Director at DOHTribalRelations@doh.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Tracie Drake
Home Care Aide Program Manager, Health Systems Quality Assurance

cc: Umair A. Shah, Secretary, Department of Health
Jessica Todorovich, Chief of Staff, Department of Health
Kristopher Holiday, Chief, Office of Strategic Partnerships, Department of Health
Lacy Fehrenbach, Chief, Office of Prevention, Safety and Health, Department of Health
Kristin Peterson, Chief, Office of Policy, Planning and Evaluation, Department of Health
Candice Wilson – Quatz'tenaut (Lummi), Tribal Policy Director, Department of Health
Sasha De Leon, Assistant Secretary, Health Systems Quality Assurance, Department of Health
Shawna Fox, Director, Office of Health Professions, Department of Health
Melissa Green, Executive Director, Office of Health Professions, Department of Health