WHAT IT IS

HB 1270 aims 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.

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
80% of deaths by suicide under age 25
77% of all deaths by suicide

OVERDOSING
68% of drug overdoses
70% 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 homeless

UNINSURED
65% of uninsured nonelderly adults

FAILING IN SCHOOL
61% of high school dropouts
50% not meeting ELA standards in grades 3-8

UNDERREPRESENTED IN

Mental health counseling
Elementary education
Social Work

25% male
18% male
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 HB 1270 establishing a Commission on Boys and Men, email info@waboysandmen.org or call/text 425-406-0941. For more information, visit the campaign website at waboysandmen.org.