

House Bill 1270 establishing a WASHINGTON COMMISSION on BOYS & MEN

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.

5 FOCUS AREAS



MENTAL & PHYSICAL HEALTH



EDUCATION



JOB, 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

Sponsors of HB 1270: Mary Dye (R), Amy Walen (D), Joel McEntire (R), Chris Stearns (D), Jenny Graham (R), Julia Reed (D), Suzanne Schmidt (R)

HOW YOU CAN HELP

To help advocate for HB 1270 establishing a Commission on Boys and Men, email info@waboy sandmen.org or call/text 425-406-0941. For more information, visit the campaign website at 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

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 unsheltered

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 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