



Healthy Environment for All (HEAL) Act – Support Senate Bill 5141

Where you live, your income, race, or language ability should not determine how healthy and safe you are. But tragically in our communities, health and well-being varies significantly according to who you are and where you live. People across Washington who are suffering worst from pollution — often low-income people, communities of color, and linguistically-isolated people — pay with their well-being and shortened lives.

The HEAL Act, Senate Bill 5141, will center those most affected by pollution as Washington transitions to a green economy. To do this, the **HEAL Act will define 'environmental justice'** in state law, outline how agencies should consider community needs and environmental justice (EJ) in their work, establish a permanent EJ Council to work with these agencies and help create EJ legislation, and expand equitable community participation.

KEY PRIORITIES IN THE PROPOSED BILL

1. **Define EJ in state law** and require its application, use an environmental justice lens in agency strategic plans, goals, and metric setting, program implementation, enforcement, and reporting.
2. **Direct funding with environmental benefits** toward investments in and determined by communities highly impacted by pollution or climate impacts.
3. **Ensure Tribal sovereignty and rights in EJ.**
4. **Advance equitable community participation in planning, resource allocation, programs, and enforcement.** This includes: agency community engagement planning, screening tools like the Washington Environmental Health Disparities (WA-EHD) Map, reducing barriers to contracting with community-based organizations and consultation with Tribes.
5. **Create and fund an EJ Council** that will support integrating EJ into state government and report progress to the Governor and work with an interagency workgroup to ensure that agencies comply with the obligations of the HEAL Act.
6. **Require an EJ assessment** of proposed and historic environment bills, rulemakings, and budgets using the WA-EHD Map and other tools.
7. **Fund and apply the WA-EHD Map** to identify cumulative impacts and overburdened communities and develop additional tools to measure the link between environmental quality and human health, disaggregated by race.

For questions, contact:

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Front and Centered is a statewide coalition of more than 60 organizations and groups rooted in communities of color and people with lower incomes who are on the frontlines of economic and environmental change. We build power and capacity to create healthy environments for all and for a Just Transition that centers equity and is led by people of color.