

## **State Health News**

- Mike Kreidler, State Insurance Commissioner is again overseeing proposed rate increases in individual health plan insurance with the passage of EB 5261.
- Karen Keiser (D, Normandy Park) introduced a health care plan (SB 6221) working with insurance companies that already are contracted to provide state employee health care. The proposal is based on a Wisconsin plan already in place. Senator Keiser is scheduled to appear at the Health Care forum sponsored by the Snohomish LWV on April 26.
- An interesting read on a dialogue between Sen. Keiser, health care practitioners and insurance industry reps on Health Care Reform on January 22-23, 2008 see <http://www.webdialogues.net/cs/wasen-healthcare-home/view/di/151?x=t=home.view> or go to Sen. Keiser's website.
- Failure of legislation terminating the sale of patient prescription records to drug companies. HB 2664, the prescription privacy bill, would have restricted drug companies from purchasing physicians' prescribing histories for marketing purposes. For interested patient consumers, read the AARP Bulletin, January-February 2008, "Ties that Bind," an article on drug makers and their relationship with physicians.

## **Presidential Candidate Positions on Health Care**

- None of the candidates is in favor of a single pay plan. However, the Democrats espouse universal health care in a variety of administrative configurations, public/private and insurance payment systems. Barack Obama favors expanded SCHIP for all kids.
- An Open Letter to the Candidates on Single Payer Health Reform written by Don McCanne, MD and sponsored by Physicians for a National Health Program can be reviewed @ <http://pnhp.org/letter.pnhp#form>