



## 2022 State Legislative Agenda

### Advocating for Economic Justice and Reducing Poverty

- **Expand free lunches to all students** [HB 1878 Rep. Riccelli/SB 5798 Sen. C. Wilson] Expand the community eligibility process (CEP) statewide, to ensure that all schools eligible to use CEP are adequately funded to serve healthy, free school meals to all their students.
- **Create a statewide multilingual online tool** [HB 1833 Rep. Berg] for school meal applications and programs for low-income students.
- **Sustain and expand Safety Net supports, including:**
  - **Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)** [SB 5838 Sen. Nobles/HB 1947 Rep. Frame] Provides a monthly diaper subsidy for those receiving TANF; and SHB 2048 creates stability by extending policy fixes.
  - **Aged, Blind and Disabled (ABD) monthly cash grant** increase from \$197 to \$417, expand eligibility to human trafficking victims [HB 1748 Rep. Entenman].1723
  - Make **Paid Family and Medical Leave** [SB 5649 Sen. Robinson] more compassionate and equitable.
  - Budget asks for **emergency food**.
  - **Reducing call-center wait times and providing in-person services at DSHS** [HB 2075 Rep. Peterson].
- **Working Families Tax Credit (WFTC) implementation** [HB 1888 and HB 2096 Rep. Thai] Budget request of \$10M and expand eligibility and language access.
- **Tax on Excessive Wealth** [HB 1406 Rep. Frame/SB 5426 Sen. Hunt] Billionaires pay their fair share with a new 1% tax on the stocks, bonds and other intangible assets over \$1 billion.
- **Make the Estate Tax More Progressive** [HB 1465 Rep. Orwall] Eliminate the estate tax for smaller estates while raising the rates for higher valued estates.
- **Digital Equity Act** [HB 1723 Rep. Gregerson] Close the digital equity divide by increasing the accessibility and affordability of telecommunications services, devices, and training.
- **Community and Technical Colleges racial equity reforms.** Create resources for ancillary aid to students, make higher education more affordable [HB 1659 Rep. Slatter], improve mental health access [HB 1840 Rep. Ortiz-Self].

### Reforming our Policing & Criminal Justice Systems

- **Establish an Independent Prosecutions Unit** [HB 1507 Rep. Entenman] to investigate and prosecute crimes involving use of deadly force by police officers.
- **Peace Officer Accountability** [HB 1202 Rep. Thai] for persons injured as a result of police misconduct, including an award of attorney's fees in addition to damages and injunctive and declaratory relief.
- **Clemency Reform** [SB 5036 Sen. Dhingra] Authorize persons to petition for conditional commutation after serving 15, 20 or 25 years of total confinement depending on underlying conviction. Expand membership on the Clemency and Pardons Board (CPB); charge them with hearing petitions for clemency, making recommendations to Governor.
- **Restrict the use of solitary confinement** [HB 1756 Rep. Peterson] in state correctional facilities.
- Support additional bills with coalition partners, including **Reforming juvenile sentencing system to make it less punitive** [HB 1413 Rep. Hackney] and **De-stacking sentencing enhancements** [HB 1169 Rep. Goodman].

### Creating Housing Opportunities & Preventing Homelessness

- **Housing Justice Act** [HB 2017 Rep. Davis] Prevent landlords from denying housing solely based on a tenant or family member's previous arrest or incarceration.
- **Fully Fund the Housing Trust Fund** to invest \$500 Million in affordable homes.

- **Support the WA Low Income Housing Alliance** coalition efforts to prevent homelessness and evictions, including HB 1904 [Rep. Peterson] to provide tenants more time to respond to rent increases.

### Promoting Environmental Justice

- **Address Climate Change** [HB 1099 Rep. Duerr] Improve the state's climate response through updates to the state's comprehensive planning framework. Ensure Washington cities and counties are planning for climate-resilient communities while reducing our contributions to the climate crisis.
- **Lorraine Loomis Act for Salmon Recovery** [HB 1838 Rep. Lekanoff/SB 5727 Sen. Rolfes] Secure and invest \$187 million in salmon recovery as part of the 2022 budget and set new standards for salmon habitat protection and conservation. In tribute to Lorraine Loomis, Swinomish Tribe, longtime champion for salmon.
- **Renew Recycling Act** [SB 5697 Sen. Das] Reduce plastic and wastes, while shifting recycling costs to manufacturers. Address packaging waste by creating a set of graduated fees on packaging manufacturers based on how readily reusable, compostable, or recyclable their products are.
- **Sustainable Farms and Fields Advisory Network** [HB 1631 Shewmake] Creates a sustainable farms & fields advisory network to enable conservation districts to hire sustainable farms & fields advisors to provide technical assistance.

### Seeking Justice for Immigrants, Civil and Human Rights for All

- **Health Equity for Immigrants Campaign** Budget ask to provide equal access to healthcare for all low-income Washingtonians, regardless of immigration status, by creating programs that mirror existing programs.
- **Provide unemployment benefits to undocumented workers** [SB 5438 Sen. Saldaña] who are unemployed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and not eligible for unemployment benefits due to their immigration status.
- **Energy for All** [HB 1490 Rep. Harris-Talley] Provide greater protections to low-income people and people with disabilities from utility disconnections; establish access to home energy as a basic need and essential resource.
- **Support Alliance for Gun Responsibility bills** especially High Capacity Magazine Restrictions [SB 5078 Sen. Liias], restricting weapons in certain locations [HB 1630 Rep. Senn] and closing ghost guns loophole [HB 1705 Rep. Berry].
- **Support justice for indigenous communities**, through bills such as HB 1725 [Rep. Lekanoff] for missing indigenous persons.
- **Support budget request [Rep. Thai] for \$30 million in one-time state funding for refugee resettlement** to DSHS Office of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance, strengthening community organizations' capacity to serve Afghan refugees.

### Ensuring Healthcare Access

- **Expand Charity Care Act** [HB 1616 Rep. Simmons] Provide more equitable health care access to millions of low-income Washingtonians by making 2.2 million individuals eligible for free or reduced healthcare at hospitals or affiliated clinics, extending eligibility for discounts for those earning up to 400 percent of the federal poverty level.
- **Keep Our Care Act** [SB 5688 Sen. Randall/HB 1809 Rep. Simmons] Ensure that future consolidations of hospitals do not perpetuate discriminatory restrictions to reproductive, end-of-life, and gender-affirming health care or exacerbate affordability barriers.
- **Improving worker safety and patient care in health care facilities** [HB 1868 Rep. Riccelli/SB 5751 Sen. Robinson] Addressing staffing needs, overtime, meal and rest breaks, and enforcement.
- **Dental Therapy** [HB 1885 Rep. Cody] Implement recommendations from 2021 dental therapy task force to establish the profession of dental therapy statewide.