

## 2025 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

### Focusing our advocacy this last month of the WA Legislative Session

#### CREATE A JUST, COMPASSIONATE AND SUSTAINABLE BUDGET (bills on reverse)

- **Support Progressive Revenue:**
  - **Fund our Future with a Tax on Financial Assets (SB 5797 Frame/HB 2046: Berg):** Fund public schools and special education services by establishing a tax on certain publicly-traded financial assets (stocks, bonds, mutual funds) held by individuals with more than \$50 million of these assets, raising several billion dollars a year.
  - **High Earners Payroll Tax on Employers (SB 5796 Saldaña):** Fund social safety programs, public schools and healthcare by requiring payroll taxes on employee salaries above about \$176,000, which are currently exempt. Applies to businesses with over \$7 million in total payroll, and would bring in about \$4 billion annually.
  - **Investing in Washington families by restructuring the business and occupation tax (HB 2045, Fitzgibbon):** Makes B&O tax code more progressive by introducing a 1% surcharge on annual taxable business profits income over \$250 million, and increases surcharge paid by banks with more than \$1 billion in annual profits) from 1.2% to 1.9%. Increases revenue by more than \$2 billion per year to support the general fund.
  - **Affordable Homes Act (REET Reform) (HB 2027):** Funds housing for people with disabilities, low-income renters and farmers by adding a transfer tax to the sale of multi-million-dollar homes while lowering rates for homes under \$3 million.
- **Extend Funding for Food Banks and Senior Nutrition Programs (budget):** Fully fund senior nutrition programs at \$35.4 million and maintain support for food banks and pantries with \$93.25 million for food banks and \$6 million for produce incentives.
- **Protect Climate Progress (budget):** Protect Climate Commitment Act funds from being redirected to the General Fund and ensure appropriations of CCA funding for: 100% clean school buses (\$20 million); zero-emission medium- and heavy-duty vehicle voucher program (\$200 million); EV charging at multi-family residences and fleet depots (\$165 million); and EV rebates for low-income Washingtonians (\$105 million).
- **Preserve Immigrant Health Equity (budget):** Appropriate \$152.4 million to fund Apple Health expansion and cover the 12,000 immigrants who were finally able to obtain healthcare coverage just last year, maintaining Managed Care rather than a fee-for-services structure.
- **Support WA Migrants and Asylum-Seekers (budget):** Appropriate \$25 million to fund services promoting economic stability, legal help and long-term integration for immigrants and refugees
- **Promote Legal Aid for Low-Income Immigrants (budget):** Appropriate \$18 million to provide immigration legal services and deportation defense, with a focus on full direct representation to Washington residents with no or low income facing deportation or at high risk of being deported
- **Uphold Housing Trust Fund (budget):** Allocate \$536 million in capital budget to build and preserve low-income housing.
- **Prevent Cuts to Homeless Services (budget):** Invest \$253 million in operating budget to prevent cuts to homeless and housing services.
- **Fund the Bias Incidents Hotline at \$600,000 (budget)**
- **Appropriate \$1 million for Non-Profit Security Grants program (budget)**
- **Maintain Funding for Mental and Behavioral Health Services (budget):** Including funding for NAMI's peer-led community-based programs and outreach and services in rural areas

## **BILLS NEEDING OUR SUPPORT**

### **PROMOTE ECONOMIC JUSTICE & EQUITY**

- **Unemployment insurance benefits (SB 5041 Riccelli)**: Allows individuals unemployed due to a labor strike or lockout to receive unemployment insurance (UI) benefits

### **STRENGTHEN CLIMATE JUSTICE AND ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP**

- **Recycling Reform Act (SB 5284 Lovelett)**: Hold packaging and paper product companies accountable for funding recycling programs. Ensure consistent, accessible recycling for all residents while reducing plastic pollution and waste.

### **ADVANCE IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE RIGHTS**

- **Private Detention Facilities Accountability and Transparency (E2SHB 1232 Ortiz-Self)**: Modifies operational standards for private detention facilities and allows the Department of Health to conduct inspections and take enforcement action in certain circumstances

### **INCREASE SAFE AFFORDABLE HOUSING and PREVENT HOMELESSNESS**

- **Rent Stabilization (HB 1217 Macri)**: Protect tenants from excessive rent increases by implementing a 7% limit on annual rent increases for existing tenants and manufactured homeowners.

### **FOSTER COMMUNITY SAFETY, DEMOCRACY AND CIVIL RIGHTS**

- **Protections for Students (SB 5123 Nobles)**: Expands protections for K-12 public school students related to gender expression and identity, housing status, ethnicity, neurodivergence and immigration status.
- **Prohibiting Interference with Access to a Place of Worship (SB 5436 Solomon)**: Bars harassment or intimidation near a house of worship
- **Permit to Purchase Firearms (HB 1163 Berry)**: Implement a comprehensive permit system for firearm purchases. This proven life-saving tool reduces firearm-related deaths and curbs illegal gun trafficking.
- **State Recognition of Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha (SB 5106 Trudeau)**: Establish these religious days as state-recognized unpaid holidays

### **REFORM OUR INCARCERATION SYSTEM**

- **Fair Chance Employment Act (HB 1747, Ortiz-Self)**: Limits the barriers to accessing employment by creating a fairer application process for people with prior convictions, with a required interactive process between the potential employer and employee

### **EXPAND ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE**

- **Improving Access to Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Services (HB 1432 Simmons)**: Helps enforce insurance coverage parity of mental and behavioral health.
- **Universal Health Care (SJM 8004 Hasegawa)**: Asks the federal government to create or allow WA State to implement a universal health care program by reducing barriers or granting appropriate waivers.