

IFAD

ADVOCACY 101 TRAINING

14 JANUARY 2026



FAITH ACTION NETWORK
A Partnership for the Common Good

MULTI-FAITH GROUNDING
LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



Agenda

- **WHY ADVOCACY AND FAITH CENTERED ADVOCACY**
- **FAN RESOURCES FOR THE SESSION**
- **HOW TO ADVOCATE DURING THE SESSION**
- **SHARING YOUR STORY**
- **PRACTICE COMMENTING ON A BILL**
- **RECAP AND NEXT STEPS**

WHAT IS ADVOCACY?

Speaking up for or amplifying the power of a cause or a community, by influencing our political, economic, and social institutions, as well as cultural norms



Advocacy can involve:

- communicating directly with elected or other leaders about policies, programs & budgets
- publicizing your perspective in media
- planning or joining public actions
- educating citizens about issues
- enabling civic participation
- engaging in the arts to bring attention to an issue or shift opinions

Democracy in action!

"Advocates create the space that makes it possible for legislators to do the right thing."

Rep. Pramila Jayapal



- **INTRODUCE MORAL ANCHOR FOR AN ISSUE**
- **SHARE LIVED EXPERIENCE OF COMMUNITIES LEGISLATORS REPRESENT**
- **OFFER STORIES OUR LEADERS CAN SHARE WITH COLLEAGUES**
- **BUILD ONGOING RELATIONSHIPS WITH RESPECTFUL DIALOGUE**

OUR FAITHS CALL US TO ADVOCATE

**A SPIRITUAL PRACTICE
THAT DEEPENS OUR
CONNECTION TO THE
SACRED THROUGH CARE
FOR NEIGHBORS, THOSE
MOST MARGINALIZED,
AND THE EARTH**

Based on teachings to
live out justice,
compassion, hospitality
and earth care found in
all our sacred
traditions

ADVOCACY AS A SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

**"Whatever God does,
the first outburst is
always compassion."**

--Meister Eckhart

What is love calling you to do?
The world needs [us] to show up
for justice with spiritual
grounding, generosity, humility,
courage, and concrete skills. It is a
spiritual practice to choose love
over fear, to be brave, to show up
when we're called, to occupy
space with loving resistance
rather than fearful retreat.

(Unitarian Universalist)

In short, we are called and
authorized to be truth tellers,
protectors of those unjustly
treated, and initiators of
actions to correct practices and
policies that separate God's
human family, disrupting
racism, sexism, and any forms
of injustice/discrimination.

*(Social Action Commission –
AME Church*

Speak up for those who cannot
speak for themselves, for the rights
of all who are destitute. Speak up
and judge fairly; defend the rights of
the poor and needy.

(Proverbs 31: 8-9)



Sikhi has taught me to be an advocate for all of humanity...
Guru Gobind Singh Ji's line, "Maanas ki jaat sabhe eke hai
pehchanbo" [Recognize all of humankind as a single caste of
humanity] conveys the message that one must recognize all of
humanity as one, and this idea about ultimate equality under
Waheguru (God) has driven me to advocate for the rights and
liberties of all people, [f]rom attending protests to participating in
social justice organizations...

(Sabiba Kaur, Sikh)



*Stand up firmly for justice, as a
witness to God, even as against
yourselves or your parents or
your kin, and whether it be
against rich or poor.*

(Surah 4:135, Qu'ran)



Faithful advocacy

**WE TRY TO GROUND OUR ADVOCACY IN VALUES
AND IN MUTUAL AND ACCOUNTABLE RELATIONSHIPS.**

DEFEND and ADVANCE IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE RIGHTS

Our diverse faith traditions emphasize that welcoming the stranger, offering hospitality, and loving our neighbor are sacred duties. We believe that everyone who calls Washington home should be treated with dignity and respect, and that all residents should have access to the essential services they need, regardless of their immigration status.

Justice &
Equity

Faith & Spirituality

Pluralism

Belonging

Interconnectedness
& Solidarity

Outcomes of your advocacy in 2025



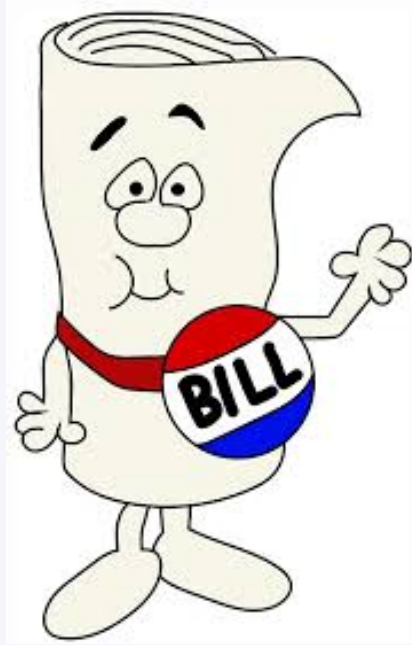
Rent Stabilization: Limits annual rent increases to 7% plus inflation

Preservation of the safety net: millions \$ going to homeless services, senior nutrition, youth crisis support, & Apple Health coverage for immigrants

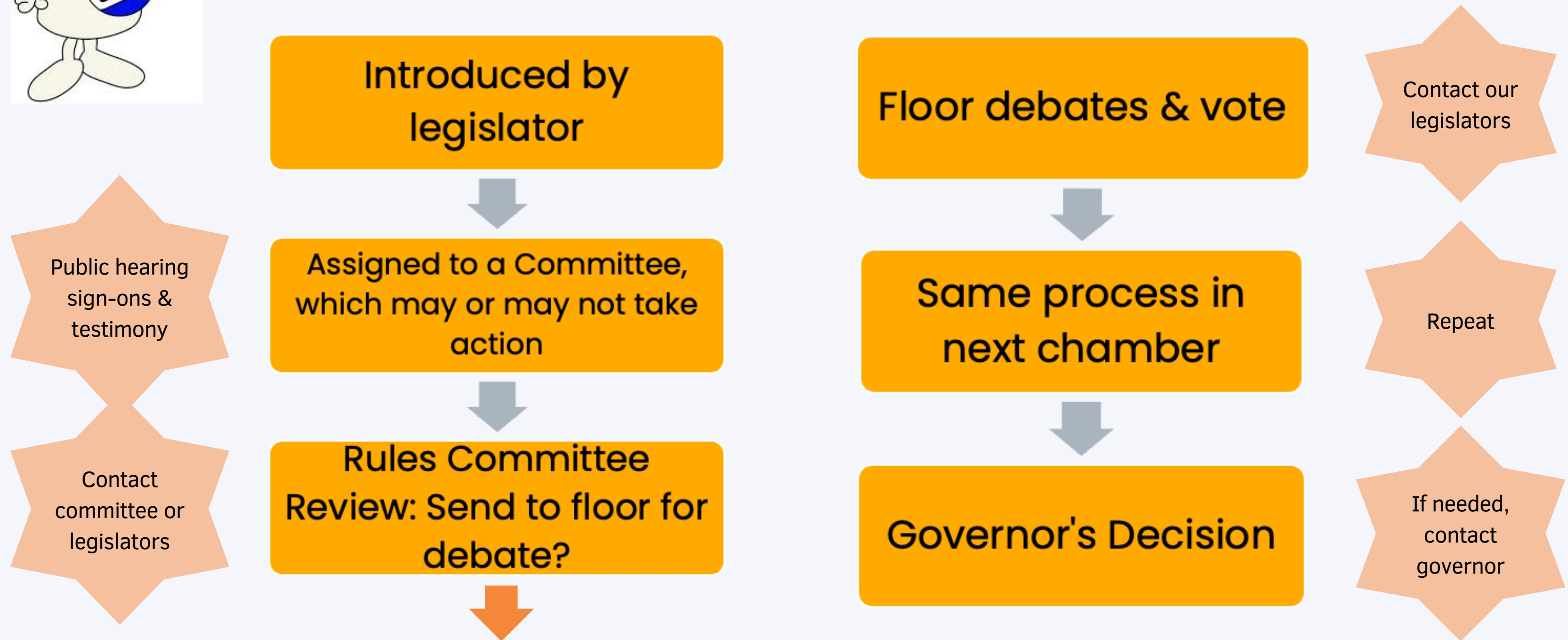
Recycling Reform Act: winning statewide recycling access and consistency, and accountability by producers of packaging & paper

Expansion of health inspections and oversight of private detention centers to ensure humane conditions & transparency

Expansion of laws requiring equal insurance coverage for mental and behavioral health services



THE LIFE OF A BILL & OUR OPPORTUNITIES TO ADVOCATE



2026 WA State Legislative Session

JAN 12

First Day of Session

FEB 12

INTERFAITH
ADVOCACY
DAY!



MARCH 12

Last Day of Session

FEB 4

Policy
Committee
Cut Off
Day

FEB 9

Fiscal
Committee
Cut Off
Day

FEB 17

House of
Origin Cut
Off

FEB 25

Policy
Committee
Cut Off -
Opposite
House

MAR 2

Fiscal
Committee
Cut Off-
Opposite
House

MAR 6

Opposite
House Cut
ff

EASY WAYS TO ADVOCATE WITH FAN THROUGHOUT THE SESSION



Sign up for FAN's weekly E-News



Personalize FAN's Action Network Letter templates




Attend Pre-IFAD legislative workshops (Jan 26 - Feb 10)



Attend FAN's Interfaith Advocacy Day (2/12 - Olympia)
Eastern WA Legislative Conference (1/31 - Spokane)
Yakima Advocacy Day (1/24 - Yakima)

Weekly Advocacy Opportunities with FAN E-NEWS

- 1 Legislative updates**
- 2 Links to committee hearings to sign in pro/con**
- 3 FAN's Action Network templates**
- 4 FAN's Coalition Partner updates and invitations**



Two resources to rely on

1

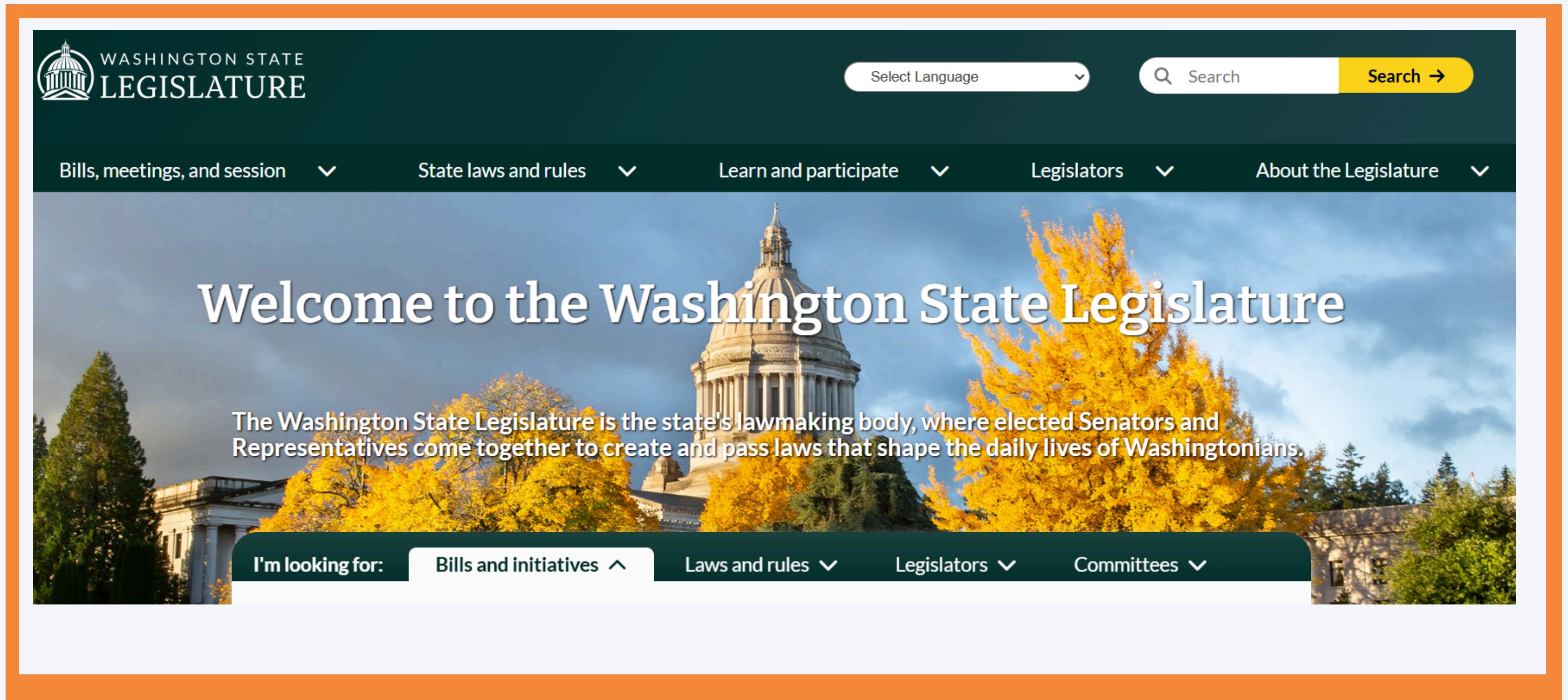
FAN Advocacy
Homepage

2

leg.wa.gov



EXPLORE OUR STATE LEGISLATURE'S WEBSITE [LEG.WA.GOV](https://leg.wa.gov)



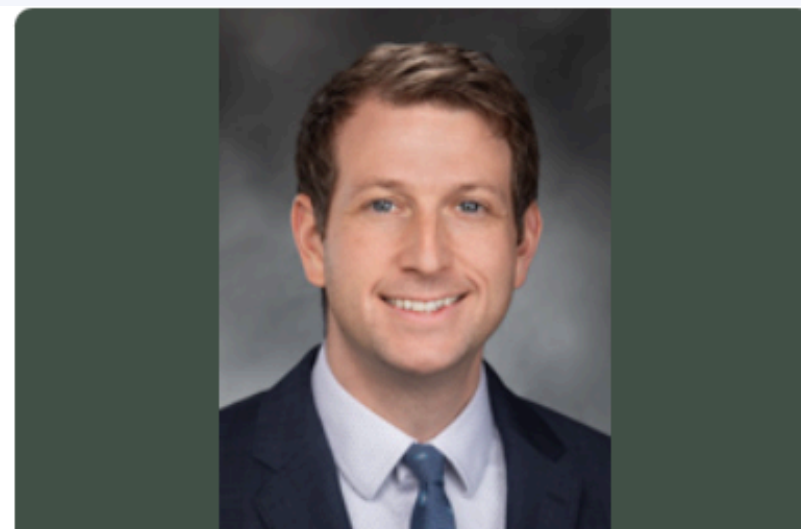
Identify and learn about your state legislators



Representative
Emily Alvarado

District 34

Democrat



Representative
Joe Fitzgibbon

Majority Leader

District 34

Democrat



Senator
Joe Nguyen

District 34

Democrat

- Contact information
- Committees
- Bill sponsorship
- Voting history
- Website

LEG.WA.GOV/DISTRICTFINDER

Ways to Advocate

Signing in Pro/Con and Commenting on a Bill

We will walk through commenting on HB 2105,
Immigrant Worker Protections

<https://leg.wa.gov/>



Ways to Advocate

Call the Legislative Hotline

1-800-562-6000

TTY for deaf/hard of hearing: 1-800-833-6388

- Leave a brief message for your state district legislators (even all three at once, plus the Governor.
- Be prepared to give your first and last name and street address with zip code.
- Interpreter services for many languages
- Hotline staff will also fulfill requests for bills and other legislative documents and can answer questions about meeting times and places, and the legislative process.
- OPEN 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Monday - Friday during legislative session

Ways to Advocate

Action Network Letters

Stabilize Rent for Washingtonians this 2025 Legislative Session

Housing is a human right and Rent Stabilization in Washington state helps ensure that all people no matter what they look like or where they live have stable, affordable housing by limiting excessive rent increases.

Excessive rent increases are driving people out of their homes and communities while increasing homelessness. Annual rent and fee increases should be limited to no more than 7% for existing tenants and manufactured homeowners. This will provide stability and still allow landlords to make repairs, keep up with costs, and make a profit. Legislators have the opportunity to pass rent stabilization this legislative session. Join us in setting the tone this session that Washington communities need rent stabilization.

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FAITH ACTION NETWORK
Seattle, WA

0 Letters Sent

Only 200 more until our goal of 200

TAKE ACTION

FIRST NAME *

Blake

LAST NAME *

Alford

EMAIL *

alford@fanwa.org

Street Address *

City *

Find support as you participate

- Legislative Information Center (LIC)
- Classes and tutorials



LEG.WA.GOV/HELP

QUESTIONS?

**"Experts can be
hired. Real
people, with
real stories,
cannot.,,
– NANCY AMIDEI**



[https://www.digitalstorytellinglab.com/projects/shared-reality-social-justice/-](https://www.digitalstorytellinglab.com/projects/shared-reality-social-justice/)

Developing your story



Who are you?

- Constituent, parent, grandparent, person of faith, teacher, etc.
- How does this lead you to care for this issue?



What issue are you concerned about and why?

- A statistic or two can be helpful to demonstrate the scope of an issue but a story is much more personal and memorable.



What is the solution to your issue?

- Briefly describe your policy or budget solution.
- How will this address the issue(s) described above.



End with a call to action!

- Vote yes, bring to a vote, etc.

Things to Remember

SPEAK FROM:

- **EMOTION/THE HEART**
- **VALUES**
- **EXPERIENCE**

STORY BASICS:

- **EVERY STORY HAS A BEGINNING, MIDDLE, AND END.**
- **OVERCOMING A CHALLENGE IS A CLASSIC STORY LINE.**



Possible talking points for HB 2105

- Gives workers the same information as their employers so they have the opportunity to update their documentation and perhaps seek legal advice
- Gives employers the clarity, resources, and support they need to understand their rights and meet their responsibilities under state law
- Provides immigrants with fairness, respect, and the peace of mind to work and provide for their families
- Helps prevent ICE from disrupting families and communities
- At just 15% of the state's population, immigrants generate 21% of Washington's economic output (Immigration Research Initiative) This bill would help keep Washington's economy strong.

Practice time

Write a comment to
your legislator
about your support
of HB2105

Remember: personalize
and share a story or a
value and keep it brief

STAY ENGAGED WITH FAN TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE DURING THE STATE LEGISLATIVE SESSION!



Attend workshops on legislation the weeks of Jan 26 - Feb 5



Sign up for FAN's weekly E-News



Personalize FAN's Action Network Letter templates



Attend FAN's Interfaith Advocacy Day (2/12 - Olympia)
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THANK YOU