

## GIVING EVERYONE A CHANCE AT COLLEGE

### *The dream of a college degree and certificates*

The good news is the state budget froze college tuition for the second year in a row, after years of unaffordable increases during the global recession.

I feel the pain of middle-class moms and dads trying to figure out how to pay for UW, WSU or Western, because their costs are nearly prohibitive. While Edmonds and Shoreline Community Colleges deliver excellent education and value, college is out of reach for too many families today. We need to do better, because a college degree is one of the surest tickets to the American Dream.

**Dream Act** (House Bill 1817 / Senate Bill 6523) – A quirk in the laws allowed some of the best and brightest immigrant children who graduated from Washington high schools with good grades to get accepted at our state universities – but not to compete for state financial aid. This reform gives those Dreamers a chance at the State Need Grant. The bill also adds \$5 million toward the State Need Grant program, currently funded at \$302 million annually. (Governor signed)

**College for veterans** – I'm proud to have voted for a new law that will make it easier for veterans to get a college degree so they may transition more successfully into civilian life. Instead of having to wait one year to establish residency and pay in-state tuition, it will happen immediately. Thank you for your service, veterans!

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- Rules
- Technology & Economic Development
- Transportation



REPRESENTATIVE  
**CINDY RYU**  
32<sup>ND</sup> LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

PO Box 40600  
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32<sup>ND</sup> DISTRICT

REPRESENTATIVE  
**CINDY RYU**

Dear neighbors,

What happened in Olympia this year, and how will it affect our families here at home?

This newsletter is my chance to keep you informed about big issues. It's also a chance to start a dialogue, because hearing from you is a huge part of my job. What do you think about education, the economy and transportation? I'd like to hear your ideas and comments.

While lawmakers finished work on time and passed a balanced budget with no new taxes, I am disappointed with the Senate Republicans for not allowing votes on a construction budget or transportation package. Our state is growing, and we desperately need to build classrooms, colleges and parks while fixing our state's aging bridges and highways.

My legislative aide, Shoubee Liaw, and I have moved the office back home to the district now that the 2014 session has ended. It's great to be back home and to see so many friends and neighbors at the grocery store and community events. Please feel free to call, email or stop by the district office.

As always, it is an honor and a privilege to serve as your representative. Thank you!

Rep. Cindy Ryu

32nd Legislative District



## PROTECTING YOUR DREAMS

Many people dream of owning their first home, buying their first car or getting a college degree.

Those are momentous events, and they also tend to be the most expensive things you ever do in life. So it's important that your family has access to affordable loans to make those dreams possible – and that you're protected against hidden fees, outrageous interest rates and fraud.

**Insurance reform** (House Bill 2461) – In the financial collapse of 2008, millions of shareholders lost their life savings because their investments were made in companies engaging in risky activities. This bill allows the Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) to protect shareholders by telling them if OIC knows an insurance holding company that a consumer is invested in is in financial trouble. (Passed House, died in Senate)

**Payday loans** – The old system of payday lending often trapped everyday people into paying up to 391 percent interest. Many people wound up taking payday loans to pay off old payday loans and dug themselves into a deep hole of debt. Reforms we passed previously made payday lending far more fair for consumers, limited the number of loans and amount of the loans. There's still work to be done, with many working families still relying on payday loans. The answer is not expanding the amount of these high-interest payday loans nor increasing their numbers as proposed last year. We can do better.

**Banks and trusts** (Senate Bill 6135 / House Bill 2141) – Our state trust laws were out of date and not conducive to attracting funds to our state. This bill updates statutes to ensure trusts are operated, monitored and managed in an honest and above-board manner. Specifics include cracking down on dishonest activities online, including false advertising, and giving the state Department of Financial Institutions (DFI) the ability to regulate and monitor trusts that operate but were not chartered in Washington. (Signed by the Governor)



## BETTER SAFETY AND HEALTH

**Drunk drivers** (Senate Bill 6413 & Senate Bill 6415) – SB 6413 adds five new offenses to those that count as “prior” offenses, letting impaired drivers get away with less. The bill also requires that more judges sentence offenders to “24/7” sobriety monitoring where it is available. This is a surefire way to keep drunk drivers from operating vehicles. SB 6415 changes the sentencing statute to ensure offenders serve the full amount of time for all crimes committed. (Both signed by the Governor)

**Protecting victims of domestic violence** (House Bill 1840) – For years, advocates for victims of domestic violence have called for laws to remove firearms from domestic violence offenders. More than half of the homicide victims in this country are women killed at the hands of their intimate partners, usually with a firearm. HB 1840 aligns Washington law with federal law by removing firearms from persons subject to protection orders. At the most volatile time in an abusive relationship, offenders will be required to surrender firearms. If the protection order expires or is lifted, or if the offender is acquitted, firearms and rights are then restored. (Signed by the Governor)

**Protecting victims of human trafficking** (Senate Bill 6339/House Bill 2644) – America has been a beacon for freedom. Yet the U.S. Department of Justice estimates that 7,500 people are trafficked into the United States each year. Human traffickers use different methods to confine their victims: lock and key or more subtle techniques, including debt bonding, isolation, threat of violence, threat of shame, holding money for “safekeeping,” or confiscation of passports and identification.

Now these bad actors can face tough criminal penalties if, in addition to forcing human being into servitude, they also take passports or identity cards from their victims – or threaten to turn these victims into the authorities for immigration offenses. (Signed by the Governor)

**Tanning beds** (Senate Bill 6065) – Is tanning safe for teenagers? This new law allows only those 18 years or older to use an ultraviolet tanning device. I offered an amendment to moderate this law, to ban those 15 years and under from visiting tanning salons. Though that amendment failed, it is good that we examined this issue to protect the health of our children. There are exceptions to this law – tanning is allowed with a doctor's prescription and photo-therapy by a licensed physician. (Signed by the Governor)



## CREATING JOBS WHILE BUILDING A BETTER WASHINGTON

**Building classrooms for school children** – In the House, Democrats and Republicans united behind a creative way to reduce overcrowding in K-3 classrooms while creating 7,000 construction jobs around the state by dedicating lottery revenue to building schools. House Bill 2797 would have built classrooms in every corner of Washington and it passed with strong bipartisan support, 90-7. Republican House members co-sponsored the bill and pushed hard for it.

However, the Republican Senate wouldn't allow a vote on this idea. This issue is too important for our children, and we need to keep working to build classrooms and give every child a chance at a great education.

The Senate also refused to pass our state's supplemental capital construction budget, to fund projects such as school and university buildings and parks.

**Fixing transportation** – Also very disappointing is the fact the Republican Senate didn't hold a vote on a transportation package to deal with traffic gridlock and safety issues which was supported by cities, counties, individuals, and both labor unions and businesses. We don't need another bridge on I-5 falling into a river or service hours getting cut. Let's work together to fix our decaying bridges and highways – while creating thousands of construction jobs in every corner of the state and keeping traffic moving.

**Car dealerships** – We voted nearly unanimously to protect local jobs. Senate Bill 6272 is a compromise bill that balanced the relationship between automobile manufacturers and dealerships. It protects good, family wage jobs at our local new car dealerships, such as those on Aurora Avenue, Highway 99, and 196th Street SW.

## OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL

### Public schools

Year after year of budget cuts have hurt our public schools – and our children.

The economy is recovering, and the Legislature invested \$1 billion in new funds in our public schools in the last budget. Yet as the Supreme Court ruled in the McCleary decision, that's not enough to fully fund our public schools and uphold the state's constitutional obligations.

The truth is the budget we passed in Olympia didn't do enough to meet the Supreme Court's order to fully fund public schools. To meet the court order on schedule, we'll have to put about \$5 billion into our public schools in the next biennial budget. It would have been smarter of us to have made a down payment this year, not by raising taxes on citizens, but by closing a single loophole given to giant oil companies.