



Representative
Gael Tarleton

36th District **2013**
Session Review

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Our kids are the real winners of the 2013 legislative session. We went to Olympia knowing that doing the right thing for our children was our paramount duty. Although the session was one of the most contentious in recent memory, I'm proud that the final budget invests an additional \$1 billion in K-12 education. We also capped tuition rates at all state colleges and universities for 2013-14, and we increased the higher education budget by 12%.



Reps. Carlyle and Tarleton and Sen. Kohl-Welles

Our social safety net has been badly frayed from budget cuts during the Great Recession. That trend is finally being reversed. We restored funding for child care for working families and increased respite-care funding for those who serve our most vulnerable citizens. I'm also thrilled that Medicaid is being expanded to serve an additional 300,000 people, and adult dental coverage is being restored.

But the session was not without some deep disappointments. We didn't pass a transportation package, which could have put us on a truly sustainable path for public transit and a clean economy, and now King County Metro alone faces a 17% cut in service. Another major loss was the failure to honor the ballot initiative to provide cost-of-living pay increases for our teachers and professional school staff. Also, key policy bills such as the Reproductive Parity Act and Dream Act died in the Senate.

When the Republicans took control of the Senate at the beginning of the session, it was remarkable how quickly the House Democrats came together. We never lost sight of our priorities: funding kids first, expanding Medicaid and access to health care, fighting for the transportation package, and making sure that college is still a part of the American dream. Your ideas and support helped us keep fighting for public policies like these that promise a better quality of life and equal access to opportunities for all our people.

I never could have done it all without my 36th District seatmates, Sen. Jeanne Kohl-Welles and Rep. Reuven Carlyle. Once my "Safe Keys" bill passed the House, Sen. Kohl-Welles personally shepherded it through the Senate. Rep. Carlyle showed me the ins and outs of both the operating and capital budgets, helping us get big wins for the district with projects that support our arts, heritage, and educational non-profit organizations. I am so proud to work alongside such incredible and passionate legislators.

It has been an honor to serve as your legislator, and I have appreciated your extraordinary participation as citizens and advocates. Please feel free to reach out any time. I look forward to hearing from you!



Your voice in Olympia,

Gael Tarleton

"SAFE KEYS" BILL - HOUSE BILL 1647

My first bill as your legislator was inspired by Dana Widrig, a very brave woman who was the victim of a terrible attack when a maintenance worker gained access to the substitute keys to her apartment. The "Safe Keys" bill adds a new section to the state's Landlord-Tenant Act to require landlords to protect their substitute and duplicate keys. Landlords and property owners all over the state are now adhering to this higher standard. I greatly appreciate the help of the Washington Realtors, Washington Landlord Association, Washington Multi-Family Housing Association, and Washington State Association for Justice. They helped spread the word to landlords so they could implement the new safety procedures as quickly as possible. In our district alone, almost 50,000 people live in apartments or condo complexes, and they have a right to be safe when they go to sleep at night. The Washington Landlord Association praised this bill for protecting tenants who depend on affordable housing in apartment buildings around the state.



Rep. Tarleton testifies for keeping renters safe.

KEEPING TUITION LEVELS STEADY AND SAVING GET

One of our biggest victories this session was the higher education budget. As a member of the House Higher Education committee, I want to send a huge "thank you!" to all the students, faculty and higher education leaders who testified during six long months of budget debates. Your stories made all the difference.



Fun times with the North Seattle Boys & Girls Club!

For the first time in more than a decade, we increased the baseline budget for higher education by 12%! We held the line on tuition costs for the 2013-14 academic year. And to make sure we give all residents – regardless of income – equal access to a high-quality college degree, we mandated that if our colleges increase tuition in 2014-15, they must increase student financial aid to offset those hikes.

We also fought off an assault on the Guaranteed Education Tuition program. For 15 years, GET has given thousands of families a chance to save for college costs down the road. Our middle-class families should be reassured that if they save, they can still afford to send their children to college.

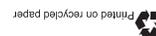
INTERIM PLANS

I was honored by appointments to the Pacific Northwest Economic Region advisory board – an engine for economic development in our beautiful Pacific Northwest – and the Legislative Energy Horizon Institute, a close ally of PNWER that focuses on developing clean energy. As a member of these groups, I have attended conferences where I have had the chance to delve into clean energy and economic development policies, as well as hear from other states' legislators about their approaches. I am excited to represent our state and bring back ideas to drive our economy and clean up our environment.

TRANSPORTATION PACKAGE STALLED

It was a terrible disappointment to leave Olympia without passing a transportation package. As a member of the House Transportation Committee, I strongly supported the House transportation package as an investment in Washington's future and Seattle's quality of life. Our city would have received more than \$50 million to serve transit riders and bicyclists and create safer streets for pedestrians. Our commuters need expanded public transit options, and our state needs a modern transportation network to support hundreds of thousands of trade-related jobs. My House colleagues took a courageous vote to move this package to the Senate, where the Senate Republicans refused to even take a vote. This hurts all of us, especially our first responders, who cannot afford to be stuck in gridlock. I'm working with colleagues to bring another transportation package forward this fall.

CONTACT
Gael Tarleton
DISTRICT OFFICE:
3131 Western Ave, Suite 421
Seattle, WA 98121
(206) 216-3185
Gael.Tarleton@leg.wa.gov
<http://housedemocrats.wa.gov/roster/rp-Gael-Tarleton>
Check my website for
upcoming neighborhood
meetings!



P.O. Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

Gael Tarleton
State Representative

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