



Representative Lillian Ortiz-Self

21st Legislative District

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Committee Assignments:

- [Early Learning & Human Services](#)
- [Environment](#)
- [Transportation](#)

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February 2014

Dear neighbors,

As many of you know, a few weeks ago Senator Paul Shin retired from nearly 22 years in the State Legislature. His time as a public servant has been anchored by true integrity and genuine commitment to the people of the 21st District. I feel fortunate to have worked with him on a variety of issues over the past several years, and as the newly appointed representative from our district I hope to live up to his legacy of service.

Senator Shin's seat in the senate was filled by our own Marko Lias and I feel honored to join

Senator Lias, as well as Representative Mary Helen Roberts, in their efforts to serve our constituents and advance public policies that take our state in the right direction.

DISTRICT TOWN HALLS

Please join your 21st district legislators on Saturday, February 22:

10 AM: Edmonds City Hall,
Bracket Meeting Room,
3rd floor, 121 5th Avenue
North, Edmonds 98020

1 PM: Martha Lake
Elementary School,
Gymnasium, 17500 Larch
Way, Lynnwood 98037

3 PM: Mukilteo City Hall,
Council Chambers,
11930 Cyrus Way, Mukilteo
98275



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My electronic communications will be short and periodic.

I will not clutter your inbox, and your email address will not be shared with anyone.

we have poor air and water quality, or when transportation isn't efficient or available, students suffer in schools. This is why I believe we need a holistic approach in Olympia, and that's what I will fight for.

I knew it wouldn't be easy to walk into a Legislative Session that was already in full swing, but I have never been intimidated by hard work. I can't tell you what a humbling and honoring experience it has been for me thus far to have the opportunity to represent our families' voices this session.

Concerning my background, I am a school counselor with the Everett Public Schools system and a mental health counselor who, up until recently, had a

I was driven to serve our district because I wanted to use my direct experience in education, mental health and human services to shape the policies that affect us at a local level. As someone who works in the trenches in our public schools, I know how these policies impact workers, organizations and most importantly, our children and families.

When family members lose their jobs, have health care needs, find themselves homeless or have mental health needs, it's the children who suffer many of the consequences. Likewise, when



private practice. I have served as the clinical director of a mental health center, Regional Coordinator for the Illinois State Board of Education, Education Advisor for the Department of Children and Family Services, and Director and Founder of the CU Project, a center for Latino families and youth. I live in Mukilteo with my husband, Clayton, and we have three children.



Visit my Website

Committee Appointments

I believe a quality education starting at a young age is the solution to many of



the social problems we face today. I also believe in our responsibility to assure that the safety nets are available to protect our most vulnerable, so my assignment to the [Early Learning and Human Services Committee](#) is a great fit.

I am also a member of the [Environment Committee](#), where

I will have the opportunity to weigh in on issues relating to air quality, aquatic lands, oil spill prevention, recycling, toxics, climate change, and parks and recreation. I look forward to working with my colleagues on responsible environmental management policies to ensure that our kids and generations to come have a clean, sustainable future.

It's no secret that we have serious transportation issues in our district, so having

been appointed to the [Transportation Committee](#) will give me the opportunity to continue to advocate for the issues important in our district. If our goal is to grow the economy, we have to invest on creative solutions that will help move people, goods, and services more efficiently

Legislation

Just a couple of weeks in and I've already met with constituents and stakeholders who have taken time out of their busy schedule to share their concerns and passions with me. I am pleased to say that, although I came in late with a tight deadline to draft bills, I



managed to prime sponsor some *Dropping my first bill into the [Hopper](#).* bills, including these two pieces of legislation I am certain will make a difference in the lives of many of our children:

[HB 2697:](#) I believe that when our students take higher level courses and challenge themselves, their hard work should be recognized. As a school counselor it's my job to encourage our students to be their best selves, and a weighted GPA is exactly the type of motivation that many kids need to take on the challenge of more rigorous coursework. As our students graduate from high school, it's critical that they are as competitive as possible when applying for colleges and universities, and especially when they apply for merit-based scholarships both in and out of state. This bill, which requires a feasibility study by a wide group of education stakeholders, will help take our students in the right direction.

[HB 2739:](#) Students don't come to us in a vacuum; they come to us with

multiple needs. As a school counselor, I see every day that academic success is tied directly to students' experiences in every aspect of their lives. As a legislator, I believe it is important that we move beyond just anecdotal stories, and use statewide data to pursue geographically targeted interventions. I'm sponsoring this bill to do exactly that. I want to ensure that we have the best information about how kids' lives outside the classroom are affecting their ability to succeed in school.

I appreciate your taking the time to read this report. **Your receiving this e-newsletter does not mean you are currently on my email list. If you do not subscribe for my future legislative updates you will not receive them. To ensure you do receive my periodic updates from now on, please consider signing up [here](#).** I am very grateful for the opportunity to represent the 21st in Olympia and I look forward to hearing from you in the days and weeks to come.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lillian Ortiz-Self". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lillian" being the most prominent.

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