



Representative  
**Mia Gregerson**

# 2014 Legislative Highlights

Democrat – Legislative District 33

Dear Friends,

About six weeks ago, the 2014 Legislative session wrapped up. Though this session was short, it was a fast-paced and exciting first session for me. But now I'm back in the 33<sup>rd</sup> Legislative District, ready to work with you on the challenges facing South King County.

The session in Olympia was jammed full of activity, starting on the first day with the vote for the Dream Act. I'm so honored and humbled that this was my first vote. My own work this session culminated with Gov. Inslee signing my first bill, making it easier for homeowners to get their property-tax refund.

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**Olympia office:**

(360) 786-7868

Watch for news of my new district office opening soon!

## Here are just a few other highlights from the 2014 session

### Holding the line on human services and transportation

The Legislature was able to reach an agreement on a **supplemental operating budget** that gives schools more funding for books, supplies and technology with an investment of an additional \$59



*Rep. Gregerson speaks for her district on the House floor.*

million. With this budget, there will also be 5,000 new slots for services for our developmentally disabled community and much-needed additional funding for mental health treatment. This mental health package of the budget addresses the concern for additional treatment capacity in our communities.

We were also able to pass a supplemental transportation budget

that sustains about 47,000 jobs across the state.

Clearly, there is much more work to do in both of these budgeting areas, but I worked to ensure that we improved human services and that we kept living-wage jobs in our transportation sector.

### Getting results

I am thankful to everyone who supported and worked with our office on legislation. We didn't pass everything in this first year but we accomplished a lot in the four bills I sponsored that made it to the governor's desk.

**HB 2446** makes it easier for homeowners and other property owners to get a property-tax refund if they paid more than they owed. This was signed by the governor on March 13 and will be effective in June.

**HB 2456** protects pension benefits for certain full-time emergency medical technicians. It was signed by the governor on March 28.

**HB 2613** improves efficiency in our higher education system. This was signed on March 31.



*Gov. Inslee congratulates Rep. Gregerson after signing her bill.*

**HB 2723** adds safeguards for homeowners and makes other adjustments to the Foreclosure Fairness Act. It was signed on March 31.

There were many other bills that passed out of the Legislature this session. One of the most exciting ones for me was the **Dream Act**, which says that all qualified high-school grads in Washington are eligible for in-state college tuition, regardless of their immigration status. This was a huge win, helping thousands of families across Washington State.

We were also able to pass some other great legislation including:

- [Increasing standards for high school graduation](#)
- [Requiring critical health screenings for newborns](#)
- [Ensuring veterans have immediate, affordable access to our state colleges and universities.](#)

## Back in the district

Now that session is over and I'm back home, I'm looking forward to spending time in South King County learning about the issues that impact you.

My seatmate and dear friend Rep. Tina Orwall and I plan on opening a district office together soon. Though we do not have the details nailed down yet, please continue to check back in for a final address and feel free to stop by any time to talk with our legislative assistants.

Don't forget, if you ever need anything at all, would like to meet or have an event that you would like me to attend, feel free to email me at [mia.gregerson@leg.wa.gov](mailto:mia.gregerson@leg.wa.gov) or my legislative assistant, Kyla Shkerich, at [kyla.shkerich@leg.wa.gov](mailto:kyla.shkerich@leg.wa.gov). We will do our best to work together and make sure we're able to meet and talk with you about any issues or concerns you have.

Thanks again to everyone for all your support during my first session. I could not have done any of this without you.

Best,

Mia



### Contact me:

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### An opportunity for learning

I had the opportunity to sponsor two great students from our community as legislative pages during the 2014 session.



In February, Sophie Rock and Alec Orwall Shamseldin (*both from Mt. Rainier High School*) helped us in Olympia. They spent the week helping out representatives on the floor and our staff in our offices and learning how the legislative process works. These two stu-



dents worked so hard and did such an amazing job representing the future of the 33rd Legislative District.

If you know a young student from the 33rd who has a passion for learning more about the legislative process and would like to spend a week down in Olympia as a page, please let me know and I would be honored to sponsor him or her next session.

### Connecting with you

On March 17, Sen. Karen Keiser, Rep. Tina Orwall and I hosted a telephone town hall. We took a lot of great questions on everything from minimum wage and teacher COLAs to marijuana and transportation. It was a great opportunity to hear from all of you.

You can hear the conversation we had that night with the callers by [clicking here](#). I know some of you did not get a chance to ask a question, so please send me an email if you do have a question and I will do my best to answer.