



# Representative ROGER FREEMAN

2013-2014  
END OF SESSION  
REPORT

## 30TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

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**Committees:**

- Early Learning & Human Services (Vice Chair)
- Technology & Economic Development
- Transportation

**Legislative Assistant**

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### Dear friends, neighbors and constituents,

It has been a privilege to serve you in the legislature these past two years. I, with the assistance of my colleagues, was able to accomplish many of the goals that I established when I decided to run for State Representative.

I was able to bring 2.6 million dollars back to our district to fund capital projects which directly benefit cities in our district. Two million dollars was awarded to the City of Federal

Way to advance development of the Federal Way Performing Arts Center. The City of Milton received \$250,000 for the Senior/Activity Center and \$225,000 to upgrade and make ADA compliant a facility in the Triangle Park. The City of Algona received \$125,000 to help build a community center.

In addition, I was able to pass six legislative bills into law. These bills protect police and firefighters injured in the line of duty, preserve the rights of parents and empower parents with disabilities.

I am proud to say, that in spite of a difficult political climate, my colleagues and I worked together to make important strides for the people of Washington: keeping families safe and healthy, funding education, and encouraging job creation. We didn't accomplish everything we wanted to, but we made a strong start. I am proud of the work we did and I look forward to coming back next year to build on our accomplishments.

Sincerely,

Representative Roger Freeman



## These are a few of our accomplishments:

- Mental Health Funding** – Our state does not have the tools, the facilities or the resources we need to properly treat those with mental health issues. As a last resort, many hospitals practice “boarding” (keeping patients locked up in emergency rooms) because they have no other option. This is wrong and inhumane. This session, we made major progress by investing an additional \$32.5 million for both adults and children’s mental health systems. These funds will help our state transform the way we treat those with mental health challenges.
- K-12 Investment** – We have a long road to travel to fully fund our K-12 education system. This session, we were able to put an additional \$58 million into supplies, technology and operating costs for Washington’s children, and an additional \$2 million towards



- helping new teachers. Unfortunately, we were not able to fund COLAs for teachers.
- Youth Opportunities Act** – Washington was one of only eight states in the nation with open juvenile records. This law prevented youth from gaining employment, renting an apartment, or getting scholarships for college. Children who make mistakes in their youth deserve a second chance. This session I was so pleased by the passage of the Youth Opportunities Act — legislation that corrects this injustice by allowing juvenile records to be sealed when a youth turns 18. The bill does not apply to serious violent offenses, sex offenses and felony drug offenses, but will provide 6,000-10,000 rehabilitated youth each year, the opportunity to put their mistakes behind them and move forward on a path to success.



## Advocating for people with disabilities

We all know parenting is hard. For parents with disabilities, this job is even more challenging. Up to 80% of children of parents with disabilities are removed from the home. This year, my most important bill, HB 2616, will help these parents. The bill will help keep families together by ensuring parents with disabilities have access to the support they need to parent effectively. I look forward to my continued advocacy for people with disabilities — to ensure equality and fairness for all Washingtonians.

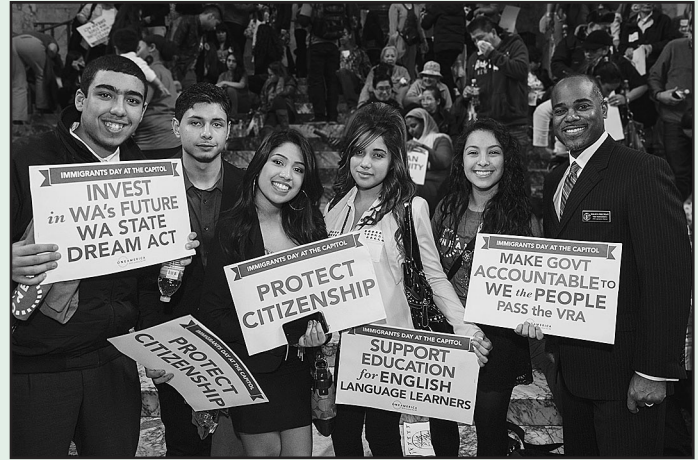
One of the other biggest wins this session was legislation that will increase funding for services for developmentally disabled children and families. There are over 15,000 individuals and families



with children with developmental disabilities who are on a waiting list for services. Many parents who have children with severe disabilities need 24/7 care. These parents never get a break. They have been determined eligible for assistance, but, due to lack of funding, have been unable to get help. I am proud that during this session we passed two bills that will provide critically needed services to about 5,000 of these families.

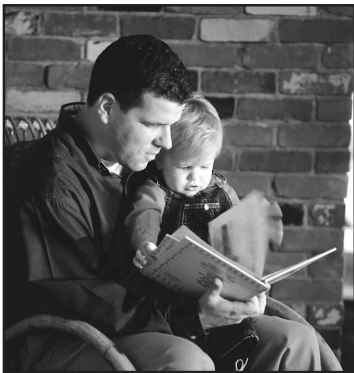
## The Dream Act

I was extremely pleased to vote in favor of the Dream Act which became law this legislative session. The Dream Act will allow aspiring students to apply for college financial aid regardless of their immigration status. Higher education should not be a luxury for the few, but an opportunity for all. I will continue to work with my colleagues to make higher education accessible and affordable for all students.



## Helping working families

There are one million Washingtonians who have no paid sick leave or safe leave. If their child is sick, they must choose between staying home to care for the child or making sure there is food on the table at the end of the month. If they are a victim of domestic violence, they must choose between going to court and getting a protection order for their family, or making rent. This session, I was proud to be a sponsor of a smart proposal that would have provided some paid sick and safe leave to all workers in Washington. In a landmark vote, the House passed this bill. Unfortunately, the Senate did not take up the bill for a vote.



I'm committed to working on this issue until we achieve basic fairness and protection for all Washingtonians. Paid sick and safe leave is about creating the kind of kind of society in which we want to live in, one where government and business respect human dignity.

## Small business growth

Before this session, a neighbor of ours, Amy, shared a story with me. Amy makes peanut brittle. She was trying to start a small business, but she has a very particular way of making peanut brittle - on the stove top. By state law, she was unable to have a business license and make her peanut brittle on top of the stove. Together, we worked on creating a solution so that she could be successful in her business venture.

I was honored to introduce House Bill 2698 on behalf of entrepreneurs like Amy. This bill encourages growth and flexibility for small businesses. Amy and I worked on this bill together, testifying before the House Agriculture Committee and talking with other legislators. HB 2698 was passed out of the House Agriculture Committee and out of the House unanimously.



Unfortunately, this bill failed to move forward in the Senate. I was appreciative that Amy called my office to ask for support. I very much look forward to re-introducing HB 2698 and ensuring that it becomes law in the 2015 legislative session!



Representative

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## Transportation

I was pleased that the House passed a 2014 supplemental transportation budget. Here in the 30th Legislative District, we were able to secure funding for several projects, including easing traffic congestion by improving SR 167 and SR 161 and reducing traffic noise on SR 161. Investing in transit, roads, rail and bridges ensures students can get to school safely, goods move efficiently and workers can get to their jobs on time. Next session, I look forward to working with my colleagues in both chambers and on both sides of the aisle to pass a comprehensive transportation budget.



*Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve you. I value your opinion. Please keep in touch with me through phone, e-mail and in person. Your comments, questions and concerns are important to me. I look forward to hearing from you!*

*Roger Freeman*