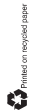


Report on the 2014 Session

Rep. Monica Stonier

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Report on the 2014 Session

17th Legislative District
Spring 2014

REPRESENTATIVE MONICA STONIER



Dear neighbors,

Thank you for allowing me to be your voice in Olympia! The 2014 legislative session ended on time for the first time since 2008. It's nice to be back home with my family and in the district talking with you.

This session was the first session where we had a relatively stable budget since the start of the recession. The Legislature added nearly \$60 million in much-needed funding for school supplies and technology, provided additional resources for mental health treatment, and funded 5,000 additional slots to help people with developmental disabilities. We did all of this and balanced the budget without raising any taxes.

While there's much we can be proud of, there's still more work to do. For the first time in 18 years, we adjourned without adopting a capital budget. The House capital budget, which we approved by a vote of 92-4, would have made critical investments in our local communities and put about 2,500 Washingtonians back to work. This bill failed to make it out of the Senate.

Another bipartisan proposal, HB 2797, would have lowered class sizes, created 7,000 jobs building thousands of K-3 classrooms across the state and moved us closer to our goal of fully funding education. This bill also did not receive a vote in the Senate.

Thank you again for giving me the honor of representing your interests in the Legislature. As always, if you have any questions, comments, or concerns with the issues we work on in Olympia, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Rep. Monica Stonier



Education

Education is the great equalizer. One out of four high school students fails to graduate on time in our state – a trend we must reverse. As vice-chair of the House Education Committee, I work with Republicans and Democrats, Senators and Representatives on legislation that will get all of our students ready for college or a career by the time they graduate.

Before you elected me to the House, there were no teachers serving in the Legislature, even though we spend nearly half our state budget on public education. Teaching and learning has changed dramatically since you were in school. I am proud to bring this very needed perspective to Olympia so we can pass smarter legislation for kids.

As part of a bipartisan effort to improve the 24-credit framework (SB 6552), I worked to ensure students enrolled in career and technical education math and science courses receive the credit they need for the next part of their journey.

In this supplemental budget year, we took another step forward with our education funding goals by adding \$58 million in



Fellow educator Rep. Steve Bergquist and I work on many issues together to improve educational outcomes for kids.

new K-12 investments for materials, supplies, and technology. We also took steps forward with paraeducator professional development, youth suicide prevention, and closing the opportunity gap.

The Legislature doesn't typically work on many "big" issues in a short session, as was the case this year. So that means several big issues are on the horizon for next year like smarter, more responsible funding for our K-12 schools per our own legislative mandate as well as by mandate of the Supreme Court.

Streamlining Government

Every organization is capable of being more efficient, especially government. As your representative, I've worked to improve areas of government that could run more efficiently and save tax dollars.

In 2014 we can send information around the globe in a matter of seconds, yet our laws still required competitive bids for state government contracts to be submitted in-person. This outdated requirement may not have been a big deal for contractors in the Puget Sound area,

but this created an unnecessary burden for those in the far corners of the state.

My bill – HB 1841, which passed unanimously – will allow state agencies to accept competitive public works bids electronically, saving contractors time and money.

Over the last two sessions, I introduced legislation to improve efficiencies in higher education and responding to medical emergencies in local communities, although there's still work to be done to convince the Senate that these money-saving ideas are good deals for taxpayers.

Health Care

Ensuring we live in healthy communities is another top priority of mine.

Last session, I worked with my colleagues across the aisle to secure \$1.2 million in funding to expand the Children's Center – a community mental health agency serving about 600 children. The expansion will help hundreds of children and families get the professional help they need to stay healthy.

I'm also pleased that Governor Inslee signed HB 2700 into law last month. This bill will create a breast cancer awareness license plate for Washington drivers. Washington ranks in the top 25 percent for cancer rates in the U.S. and is sixth highest for female breast cancer rates. The American Cancer Society estimates over 38,000 new cases will be diagnosed in Washington this year.

Proceeds from the pink ribbon license plate sales will go to the Washington State Department of Health for breast, cervical, and colon cancer screening for those who are uninsured, under-insured, disabled, or otherwise do not have access to cancer screening.

This is a little bill signed by the governor that will have a big impact on someone's life tomorrow.



Gov. Inslee signing my breast cancer license plate bill.

Keeping in Touch

It is an honor and a privilege to be your voice in the House of Representatives. I enjoy the work we do in Olympia, but I'm also happy to be back home in our community. Please call or email the district office to let me know about the issues you care about most.

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