

(Senator Kohl-Welles continued from inside)

communities. This is why I am glad to report there were several important anti-trafficking bills that passed the Legislature this year. They include:

- **HB 1292:** Allows survivors of the commercial sex trade to petition a judge to vacate the penalty of prostitution from their record.
- **HB 1791:** Adds sex trafficking to the existing definition of sex crimes. It was also amended with language from my bill (**SB 6017**) that allows local law enforcement to recoup costs of investigating crimes related to prostitution and sexual exploitation of minors.
- **SB 6126:** Permits appointment of an attorney to represent foster children to keep them in safe homes and away from predators.
- **SB 6339:** Makes the use of ‘coercion’ in trafficking cases a felony.

(Representative Reuven Carlyle continued from inside)

Funding Education

The Legislature is under an unprecedented directive of the state Supreme Court to use state dollars to fully fund “basic education” rather than requiring school districts to use local dollars for core services. We are effectively obligated to invest an additional \$4.5 billion in basic education by 2018. While we have made modest progress, providing these resources in a responsible, sustainable, systemically sufficient way necessitates a courageous conversation about additional revenue.

Our finance team has worked to invest more money in public education (from early learning through higher education) by closing outdated, ineffective tax preferences such as the \$59 million tax benefit for British Petroleum, Shell Oil and the other refineries in our state. But this approach is not enough. We need to explore tax reform and structural changes in order to build the quality of life we seek.

(Representative Gael Tarleton continued from inside)

Environmental Responsibility

One of the reasons I sought public office was to move our state toward a clean energy future. This session I sponsored a number of bills that move us in that direction, including **HB 2708**, which defines a liquid form of biomass as a clean renewable energy. Seattle Steam will conduct a pilot project to determine whether liquid biomass, derived from woody pulp, may be used to generate energy with zero carbon emissions.

I will continue to advance the following bills that support a more sustainable future:

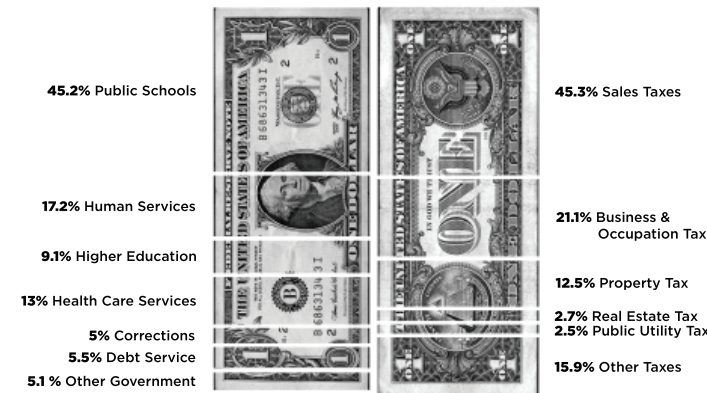
- **HB 2579** will limit or prohibit the use of suction dredging - “shop-vac mining” - in areas where wild fish spawn.

- **SJM 8003:** My legislation that requests Congress amend the federal Communications Decency Act so that it better addresses the negative effects that the Internet and new technologies have on promoting commercial sex trafficking of minors.

There is always more work to be done on this issue, but every step we take is one step closer to shutting down an illicit industry that draws its profits from the abuse and exploitation of others.

Despite my disappointment with the unfinished business this session, I am pleased we had some significant accomplishments in 2014. I look forward to continuing to work throughout the interim and into next session to keep improving Washington State.

How Our State Money is Spent... ..And Where It Comes From



Figures for the Operating Budget Only Source: Washington State LEAP

- **HB 2347** will help local governments better prepare for oil train derailment disasters in their communities.

We must secure dedicated funding revenues that help us clean up Puget Sound and protect against oil train and shipping accidents.

A single legislative session is only one stop on the long journey to keep our state moving forward. I am frustrated we couldn't make more meaningful progress this year, but the work will get done. Your willingness to be part of this work makes all the difference.

Stay in touch!

Please keep us informed of your ideas, concerns and community activities.

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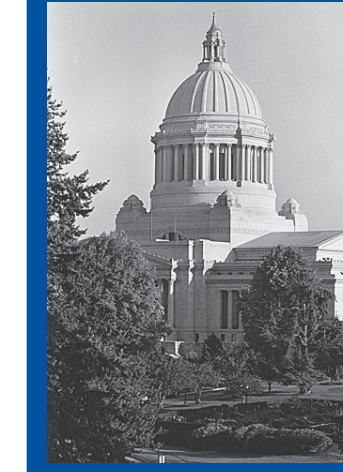
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36TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT
SENATOR JEANNE KOHL-WELLES
REPRESENTATIVE REUVEN CARLYLE
REPRESENTATIVE GAEL TARLETON

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

The frenzied 60-day 2014 Legislative Session is now complete and we are so thankful to be home in Seattle. We found the session simultaneously exciting, engaging, comic, and maddeningly frustrating. Although we arrived in Olympia with modest expectations of what the Republican-controlled Senate and Democratic-led House could accomplish, we struggled to reach even that low bar and made only a handful of significant accomplishments. This newsletter is designed to provide an overview of the issues that drove the session and to share with you some of our key achievements and most troubling disappointments.

Session Highlights and Disappointments

Highlights

- Passed the DREAM Act, allowing all students in our K-12 system to be eligible for higher education financial aid
- Protected victims of domestic violence by allowing courts to seize perpetrators' guns
- Passed bill to strengthen high school graduation requirements
- \$58 million for books, technology, and supplies for our K-12 schools
- \$25 million for the Opportunity Scholarship Program (a public-private scholarship program for lower and middle income college students)
- \$11 million for community mental health
- \$6 million for our foster care system, particularly for extending foster care to children between 18 and 21

Disappointments

- Did not pass a supplemental capital budget
- Did not pass a transportation revenue package
- Did not fund a small cost of living adjustment for teachers
- Did not reconcile the medical and recreational marijuana markets
- Took no action on background checks for gun purchases
- Did not pass the Voting Rights Act or the Reproductive Parity Act
- Did not address state Supreme Court directive to establish a plan to fully fund public schools

But we are excited we maintained a freeze on college tuition increases for another year, while providing some needed funding to make up for the loss of revenue to our public colleges and universities. Also, active military and veterans and their families are now eligible for in-state tuition immediately, instead of having to wait a year!

Again, it is an honor to serve you in the Legislature, and we hope to hear from you in order to help us better represent you. We're back in our district office at the base of Queen Anne Hill; please let us know if you'd like to meet.

Best regards,

Jeanne Kohl-Welles *Reuven Carlyle* *Gael Tarleton*

While it is an enormous honor for me to represent my constituents in the state Senate, I unfortunately have experienced great disappointment and frustration in the second year of the Republican-dominated “Majority Coalition Caucus” in the Senate. Yet for all the important bills that were cast aside, we did make some gains in areas I’ve worked on for years and/or are important for residents of the City of Seattle. These include the passage of a bill banning use of tanning salons by those under 18 years (SB 6065), a bill protecting houseboat owners (SB 6450) on which Rep. Tarleton worked hard, a disabled parking violations bill (HB 2463), and my bill to help our farmers markets (SB 6514).



Jeanne addressing youth groups in the Legislative Building Rotunda

Marijuana Update

Though no legislation made it through the Legislature this year regarding the alignment of the medical and non-medical marijuana markets, several bills were introduced, including a comprehensive bill of mine (SB 6178) and one by Sen. Ann Rivers (SB 5887). I worked closely with Sen. Rivers to get SB 5887 through the Senate, but it didn’t pass the House.

Some of the key provisions in the bill were:

- Protection of small collective group grows;
- A voluntary patient registry; and
- Definition of the term ‘intractable pain.’

Homelessness and Affordable Housing

The Great Recession has placed more people at risk of homelessness than any time in recent memory. Poverty rates, including among children, remain high even as rents continue to rise.

A highly effective measure to mitigate this problem, which tacks a mere \$40 fee to real estate purchases, has reduced homelessness in Washington by 29% since it started in 2006. Because of politics in the Republican-controlled Senate, this life-saving program was nearly lost. Fortunately, due to outcry in the public and the Legislature, we managed to ensure its survival for another five years.

Also, and largely in response to what’s been happening to the tenants at Lockhaven Apartments in Ballard, I introduced SB 6292 to triple the period of notice for eviction and rent increase, and provide greater tenant relocation assistance. And Sen. David Frockt and I introduced SB 6291, which would have streamlined the process of tenant screening. Unfortunately, neither received a vote, but we will continue to push for fair and affordable housing legislation next year.

Higher Education

As Ranking Member of the Senate Higher Education Committee, I was especially pleased that we finally passed the Dream Act (SB 6523). This bill allows all of Washington’s

Another key bill that passed the Senate was my SB 6542 that would have created a Cannabis Industry Coordinating Committee. With so many emerging marijuana industries, this committee would have evaluated the needs of these markets, including medical marijuana, and the regulations needed, and then made recommendations to the Legislature accordingly.

I am very disappointed none of these bills passed, but I will continue to work with patients, stakeholders, the Governor, business leaders and the U.S. Department of Justice to ensure qualifying patients in Washington retain access to the medicine they need while preserving public safety and restricting use by minors.

hardworking, qualified students to be eligible for financial aid, regardless of where they were born. Legislation also passed that extends the tuition rate freeze, allows military personnel to receive in-state tuition, and increases efficiency in colleges and universities. I am also pleased that my bill (SB 6358), that will be of particular help to low-income students so they may have greater access to financial aid information, was signed into law by the Governor on March 19.

Legislation was also passed this session that will help ensure the successful College Bound program can continue in the long term (SB 6438). This program allows low-income students who sign up in the seventh or eighth grade the opportunity to go to college as long as they maintain a certain GPA, graduate and stay out of legal trouble. We need to adequately fund higher education in order to ensure affordability, access and successful degree completion.

Human Trafficking Update

With an international border and having the closest ports in the continental U.S. to Asia, our state continues to struggle with human trafficking. In addition, the horrific crimes of sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation of minors have been increasingly recognized as major issues in our

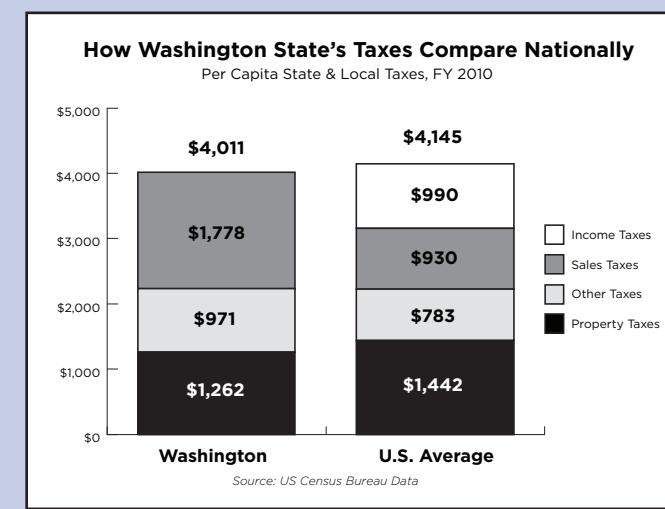
(Senator Kohl-Welles continued on back)

Public Disclosure of Tax Preferences

Washington is #3 in the nation in the quality of campaign, lobbying and budgeting disclosure. But we are near the bottom in disclosure of our 650-plus tax exemptions. Fewer than 3% (19 of 650) are truly transparent—disclosing who claims them and the value of the dollars to organizations and the public. In contrast, every granular budget expenditure is publicly available online.

I introduced meaningful legislation (HB 2201) to publicly disclose details of the state’s 120 “economic development” tax preferences. Lawmakers and the public should have a right to scrutinize the relevant data to better assess whether they are working. The bill would have provided substantive financial context to better evaluate the effectiveness of the preferences. The legislation passed the House but was blocked from consideration in the Senate.

As chair of the Finance Committee and a member of the budget committee, I am working with colleagues to tackle complex policy issues and elevate the level of analytical, financial and intellectual rigor around our state’s tax and budget policies. We are now 37th in the nation in the combined level of



state and local taxes based on personal income, down from 11th in the nation in 1995. The financial impact of initiatives and legislative action is substantial over time.

I believe that public transparency of both sides of the ledger—taxes and spending—leads to better public policy investments and outcomes for taxpayers and our state’s future.

Extending Foster Care

Each year more than 500 kids age out of the foster care system in Washington State when they turn 18. The social, educational, financial and health challenges that former foster youth face are a societal embarrassment, and making a difference in their lives remains a priority of my legislative service.

With bipartisan support and leadership from the Mockingbird Society and Treehouse, this year we passed and funded HB 2335, which extends foster care an additional three years for many foster youth. I’m honored to continue the work of former Rep. Mary Lou Dickerson in this arena.

Ending the Death Penalty

Governor Inslee recently declared a moratorium on the death penalty. As lead sponsor of legislation to replace the death penalty with life in prison without the possibility of parole, I feel the time is right to join the 18 states that have made this change.



Reuven announcing the details of the House budget and revenue package with Appropriations Chair Ross Hunter (left) and Majority Leader Pat Sullivan (right).



Constituents from the Housing Alliance discuss housing and homelessness issues with Reuven.



Students from Whittier Elementary visiting Olympia.

(Representative Reuven Carlyle continued on back)

Choosing Our Battles: A few victories, but work yet to do

The 2014 session gave us the opportunity to reinvest in communities and critical human services that were persistently defunded throughout the Great Recession. Those who took the deepest cuts were too often our most vulnerable citizens. This year, we left Olympia giving them more support. We added funding for 5,000 new slots to address the “no paid services” wait list facing the developmentally disabled community. Additional mental health resources will make a huge difference for



Visiting with constituents from the Grandmothers Against Gun Violence lobby day.

Advancing Health Care

One of the greatest success stories we can celebrate is Medicaid expansion. Thanks to the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and Washington’s Medicaid expansion, nearly 500,000 Washingtonians now have access to health care.

In an effort to bring health services to those who cannot afford it, I passed a bill (HB 2351) that will allow health care professionals from other states to volunteer their services in

Jobs & Economic Opportunity

Our state’s maritime and manufacturing industries support hundreds of thousands of family-wage jobs throughout our state. We must do what we can to ensure these industries thrive in the 21st Century. Another one of my bills that was signed by the Governor is HB 2580. It will create a statewide action plan to grow and sustain these living-wage jobs for generations and ensure our critical infrastructure supports this industrial base.

I also introduced a bill that would have mandated a certain amount of paid vacation leave for Washington employees. Most European countries have had this policy in place for years and their productivity and gross domestic product numbers prove it benefits both businesses and workers. Our caucus also introduced the Sick and Safe Leave Act that would allow workers to take care of themselves and get healthy without fear of losing their job. These bills didn’t pass, but they did

those who desperately need our help. We created more stability for homeless families by extending the document recording fee for another four years.

Despite these victories, we left too much important work undone. For the first time in decades, session ended without sending a capital budget to the Governor. We also failed to pass a transportation revenue package, a huge setback that may undermine job recovery in local communities for years. In a last-minute “balance the budget” negotiation, the Life Sciences Discovery Fund was zeroed out of the budget. I joined with seventeen colleagues, including my 36th District seat-mates Senator Jeanne Kohl-Welles and Representative Reuven Carlyle, in a letter to Governor Inslee, imploring him to use his power of partial-veto to retain funding for this program.

The LSDF is a program that makes competitively awarded state research grants to the people doing research that cures cancer, helps people recover from brain injuries, and discovers the causes of Alzheimer’s and dementia. These researchers are our STEM graduates. They will become our STEM teachers. When we invest in life sciences research, we are building a better quality of life for all of us. Governor Inslee did use a partial veto to restore the budget for the LSDF through the remainder of this biennium. I am thrilled for our research teams and will continue to explore all options to ensure life sciences research remains a key anchor of Washington’s economy.

Washington for up to 30 days per year. The Seattle Center has teamed with Remote Area Medical and dozens of partners to conduct a 4-day free health clinic in October 2014, and asked me to sponsor this legislation to support this public service. The passage of this bill gives us an extraordinary opportunity to make health care available to our people, where they live.

start a conversation. Washington has always been a champion for workers and I will continue to push for these rights.



Meeting with foster children and constituents from the Mockingbird Society.

(Representative Gael Tarleton continued on back)