

Healthy Families, Healthy Communities



At-risk Children

Children and young adults need support to succeed in life. They can't do it alone. But not all children have their parents helping them along the way. Some need teachers, mentors, foster parents, and attorneys. It is our duty to ensure the system isn't stacked against them and that trusted adults have the tools they need to help youth in need.



Ensuring foster children's best interests are top priority

Legal representation for foster children / [SB 6126/](#)[HB 1285](#) – Unlike most states in the nation, foster children in Washington do not have an attorney. It doesn't make sense that everyone in the courtroom has an attorney on their side except the one child whose future is at stake. Foster children who have attorneys are able to be placed with good families much sooner than those without. This stability and safety are best for the child and it saves the state money. This bill ensures that all foster children whose parents no longer have parental rights will be entitled to an attorney. *(Delivered to Governor)*

Allowing all children a second shot at success

Access to Juvenile Records / [HB 1651](#) – People who commit offenses as juveniles often have difficulty getting a job or renting an apartment years after atoning for a mistake and attempting to move on with their lives, because Washington is one of only 8 states that provides open public access to juvenile court records. This measure requires the court to schedule an administrative hearing to consider sealing court records of a juvenile offender who has completed probation or confinement and parole. Violent and serious offenses are not included. The court must seal a juvenile court record unless someone objects or the court identifies some compelling reason, in which case the court will weigh competing interests. This bill will allow Washington's children a fair shot to succeed. *(Delivered to Governor)*

Providing meaningful treatment to juvenile firearm offenders

Juvenile firearm offenders / [HB 2164](#) – Under current law, juveniles who get involved with firearms and crime at a young age don't get the early intervention they need to keep them from becoming career criminals. It may take multiple offenses for a child to be referred to treatment. Instead of waiting until they have committed several offenses or a serious crime to send them to the adequate program, HB 2164 requires meaningful early intervention, in the form of evidence-based programs, to keep troubled kids from repeating the pattern of crime. *(Delivered to Governor)*

Giving young adults the support they need

Extended Foster Care / [HB 2335](#) – Youth typically ‘age-out’ of foster care at age 18. But thanks to recent changes in federal law several years ago, Washington allowed foster youth to continue to receive services from ages 19-21 if they were participating in a secondary education program or its equivalent. This bill also allows extended foster care for those working at least 80 hours per month. The services could include placement in foster care or a supervised independent living situation, health care, case management and basic needs. *(Delivered to Governor)*

Preventing crime by helping those with substance abuse get the treatment they need

Chemical Dependency / [HB 2627](#) – The measure establishes a pilot program in Snohomish County to divert people with chemical dependency needs involved in the criminal justice system from detention into treatment. Under the pilot program, people facing arrest for certain non-serious offenses may be taken by the police officer to receive chemical dependency treatment rather than detention. If an officer takes a juvenile to a mental health treatment center as a diversion from detention and a chemical dependency problem is identified, the juvenile may receive up to 30 hours of counseling. The pilot program expires in 2019. *(Delivered to Governor)*



Providing safe and secure shelter for homeless men, women and children

Document recording fees / [HB 2368/SB 5875](#) – Despite the state’s ongoing economic recovery from the Great Recession, homelessness remains a stubborn problem for many. More than half of the money spent to address homelessness across the state comes from a \$40 fee on deeds, mortgages, leases and other real-estate documents filed with county auditors. The fee was scheduled to be reduced by 75% in three years, threatening to leave more than 30,000 people without shelter. With the extension of this law, over \$200 million in funding will be provided for emergency shelters, transitional housing, rental assistance, and other homeless assistance funding. SB 5875 which derives from HB 2368 extends the fee to 2019. *(Delivered to Governor)*