



Report on the 2018 Legislative Session

Representative
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Investing in Education

The legislature scored a large victory this session by investing another one billion dollars in our public schools to support our teachers, finally fulfilling our McCleary obligation. I spearheaded several educational efforts this session that will:

- Increase funds for **special education**,
- Provide funding to ensure our state's students receive medically and scientifically accurate, age-appropriate and inclusive **sexual health education**,
- Increase equity in and access to **highly capable programs** for all high-achieving students across the state, and
- Create a workgroup to review educational needs for students in **juvenile justice** settings.

Ensuring healthy meals for our state's students

Too many Washington state students live in food-insecure homes and are focused on where their next meal will come from, rather than on learning. With the new **Breakfast After the Bell** law, we will ensure hungry children can get a healthy, nutritious breakfast to start the day before or after the first bell has rung. In addition, the Hunger-Free Students' Bill of Rights bans lunch payment shaming and requires schools to provide healthy, balanced lunches to all students, regardless of their ability to pay.



Expanding access to higher education

The rising costs of higher education can put the dream of a college education out of reach for too many. This year's budget expands access to higher education by fully funding the **State Need Grant** over four years to ensure no one is denied a higher education due to their financial situation.

Many students in our state with DACA status receive College Bound financial aid. Even if the Trump Administration follows through on its threat to eliminate the DACA program, we passed legislation to ensure undocumented students will be able to keep their College Bound state financial aid and qualify for the College Bound Scholarship.

Report on the 2018 Session 41st LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

Neighbors,

After years of gridlock and overtime sessions, I am happy to report that with new leadership in the Senate, we ended on time...and pushed forward with the strongest progressive agenda in decades.

In our 60-day session, we approved a balanced budget that invests in our behavioral health system, expands access to higher education, strengthens the safety net, and fully addresses the last remaining element of the McCleary education lawsuit. On top of these investments, we also had the unique opportunity to **lower property taxes** due to unexpected revenue growth. I was proud to vote to provide over \$400 million in property tax relief.

In addition to our budget, we passed legislation to promote **equal pay**, ban the harmful practice of **LGBTQ conversion therapy**, and address **reproductive health** disparities for women. Washington also became the first state in the nation to pass a **net neutrality** law to protect against internet providers slowing or reducing internet service.

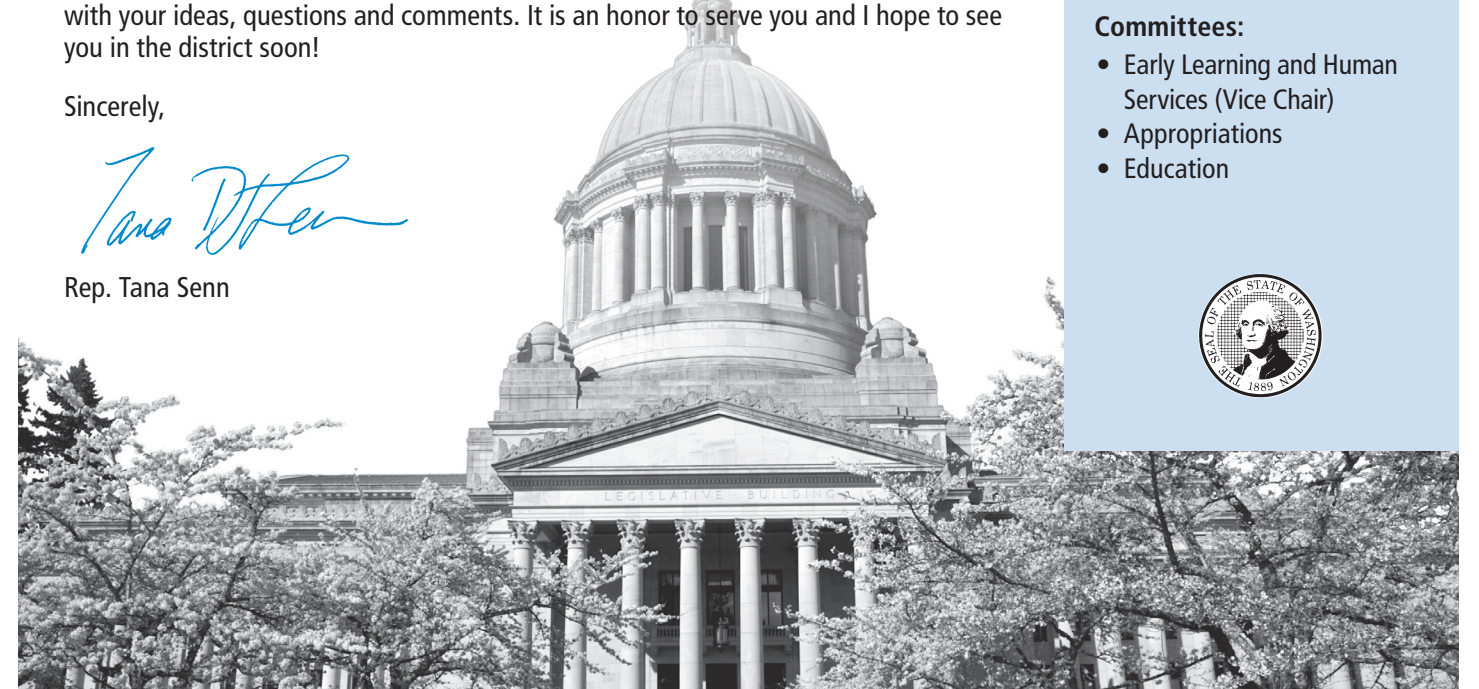
Protecting our residents was forefront in our minds as we passed a first-in-the-nation **drug take-back** program, banned **toxic perfluorinated chemicals** from food packaging and firefighting foams that was fouling up our waters, and passed common sense laws to prevent **gun violence**.

We expanded access to democracy with a number of **voting rights** bills including our pre-registration voter law that will help ensure our youth—who have shown their willingness to and poise in standing up and speaking out—will be eligible to exercise their right to vote the day they turn 18.

Inside this newsletter, you'll find more details about the progressive victories and the legislation I worked on this year on your behalf. Thank you to those who wrote, called, or visited my office in Olympia this year. Please don't hesitate to continue reaching out with your ideas, questions and comments. It is an honor to serve you and I hope to see you in the district soon!

Sincerely,

Rep. Tana Senn



Representative
Tana Senn

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- Early Learning and Human Services (Vice Chair)
- Appropriations
- Education



Rep. Tana Senn • Report on the 2018 Session

Historic Equal Pay Bill Passes

This session we passed my bill, the Equal Pay Opportunity Act, to update Washington state's equal pay law for the first time in 75 years!

It has been my top priority to pass updated protections for Washington's working women and this session, along with the tireless efforts of labor, business, and women's groups, we succeeded!

Specifically, the Equal Pay Opportunity Act:

- Prohibits employers from imposing pay secrecy policies,
- Allows employees to talk about their wages without fear of retaliation,
- Prevents discrimination by gender in providing career advancement opportunities,
- Bans employers from retaliating against employees who file complaints, discuss wages or seek advancement opportunities, and
- Ensures employees are entitled to administrative or civil remedies in the event of violations.

I am proud to share this victory with all the young girls, working women, and families across our state who can now look forward to a brighter economic future!



Sexual Harassment in the Workplace

Prominent sexual harassment incidents across the country and the #MeToo movement have highlighted the need for more protections against harassment in the workplace. This session, we passed multiple laws to strengthen Washington's protections including: prohibiting employers from requiring nondisclosure agreements preventing employees from disclosing sexual harassment or assault; encouraging the development of model policies to create sexual harassment-free workplaces; and making it easier to expose repeat sexual harassers by removing barriers to lawsuits created by non-disclosure agreements.

The Fair Chance Act

Everyone deserves a second chance. This session, we passed legislation to give job seekers with a criminal history a fair chance at finding a job by requiring employers to delay background checks until after the applicant has the opportunity to present their qualifications for the job.

Supporting our State's Children, Youth & Families

This July, the newly created Department of Children, Youth and Families will officially open for business. I look forward to working to oversee its work to improve outcomes for our state's children.

Improving health care outcomes for former foster youth

Continuing our focus on children's mental health

The legislature last year started its venture into addressing Children's Mental Health. This year, we continued our efforts and successfully championed legislation to build greater mental health provider capacity, improve mental health in schools and early learning settings, explore access to eating disorder treatment and evaluate parent engagement in the treatment process of youth. *Thank you to the National Academy of American Pediatrics who presented me with their national Child Health Advocate Award for the bi-partisan work of the Children's Mental Health Workgroup, which I've co-chaired.*



Foster youth are the state's children. This session, we passed legislation to make an easier transition for foster youth when reuniting with their families. By allowing former foster youth to continue coverage in the integrated managed health care plan, my bill ensures youth have continued access to their preventive check-ups, prescriptions, and mental health therapists as they reunite with their families.

Rep. Tana Senn • Report on the 2018 Session

Tackling the Housing Crisis

Rising homelessness and the lack of affordable housing are critical problems across our state. This session we passed new laws designed to transition the homeless into homes, prevent at-risk individuals and families from becoming homeless, and increase the quality, supply, and affordability of low-income housing. One great tool in this effort was our success in bolstering the **document recording fee**—a critical tool for cities and counties to support homeless services and affordable housing.

Preventing housing discrimination

Families too often struggle to find a place to live and income discrimination has made matters worse for those who receive housing subsidies. We passed legislation to ban landlords from discriminating against an otherwise eligible applicant – whether they are a veteran, a foster youth or a family—just because they need a little help paying rent.



Building for the future

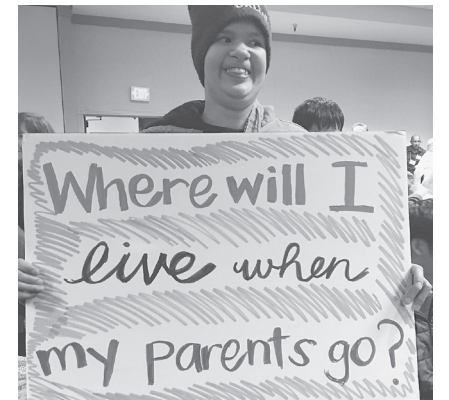
With the current construction boom—and growing awareness of earthquake dangers in our state—the legislature passed my bill to ensure the **State Building Code Council** has the resources to make sure building codes are in place to maintain the health and safety of our built environment.

Unfortunately, my bill to reduce liability barriers to building **affordable condominiums** did not pass. As our state continues to struggle with the increased costs of housing, I will continue to champion legislation to promote affordable housing solutions.

A creative housing solution for people with developmental disabilities

Many aging parents of adults with developmental disabilities are concerned about what will happen to their children in the future.

We passed legislation I sponsored that creates a win-win-win solution by providing a real estate excise tax exemption for families that donate their homes to residential supported living nonprofits in exchange for their adult child living in the home for life. This provides peace of mind for parents, stability for the adult child, expanded supportive living capacity and doesn't rely on the Housing Trust Fund.



Common Sense Gun Legislation



After the ongoing string of devastating shootings across the country, people are rightfully demanding more than thoughts and prayers to prevent future mass shootings. This session, we took small, but significant, steps toward preventing gun violence.

As a mother and legislator, I pledge to keep fighting for common sense gun legislation to protect our communities and our kids. In particular, I will continue my efforts to allow Washington State Patrol to destroy, instead of sell, forfeited firearms including deadly assault weapons.

Banning bump-fire stocks

The legislature passed a ban on bump-fire stocks, which are trigger modifications that allow semi-automatic firearms to replicate fully automatic weapons, such as a machine gun. This was the devastating instrument used in the Las Vegas massacre.

Allowing those in crisis to protect themselves from firearms

When people are in a crisis and struggling with impulsive thoughts of suicide, having access to firearms significantly increases the risk of harm. Washington state will now allow people to take a step toward safety by putting themselves on a do-not-purchase list for firearms.

Protecting victims of domestic violence

Many domestic violence crimes make it unlawful for a person to possess a firearm if they have been convicted or found not guilty by reason of insanity. Following legislation passed this session, harassment is now included in those crimes preventing possession of a gun.

Thank you to Rep. Judy Clibborn

It has been an honor and privilege to serve the people of the 41st District with retiring Rep. Judy Clibborn. Judy is an incredible leader, role model and friend, and she will be greatly missed in the legislature.

