



STATE
REPRESENTATIVE

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Neighbors,

This year's legislative session presented big opportunities to ensure that as our state recovers from the pandemic, we're bringing everyone along in that recovery. We passed bills to create a state student loan program offering an interest rate of just 1%, expand the number of public schools offering free meals to students, increase the small business B&O tax credit to include the vast majority of our state's businesses, provide assistance to restaurants and other hospitality business and much more to keep our safety net strong and accessible to families.

Since joining the Legislature in 2020, I've worked to help families and seniors struggling with rising costs, students looking for the right pathway to a good-paying job and small business owners and entrepreneurs seeking to invest in their communities.

I'm proud to have championed historic police reform legislation to set clear expectations for officer behavior and a baseline for acceptable use of force, tactics and equipment, as well as to ensure accountability and transparency. I also introduced clarifying legislation this year to ensure law enforcement officers have the legal certainty they need to respond to community caretaking calls like a mental health crisis.

After careful consideration, I've decided to finish out my term through the end of the year and not seek re-election in 2022 so I can focus on my family, especially my 7-month-old baby and my partner. I truly believe it shouldn't always be women taking a back seat in their careers, and I have a talented partner in medical school soon to become a doctor. Supporting her while being more present in her and my child's life is what's needed for our family at this time.

I grew up in Federal Way, and it has been the honor of my life to serve as your state representative. I've always wanted to show young people and people of color in my community that you can be in this position and that representation matters. Thank you for entrusting me to represent the needs and concerns of our district in Olympia.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jesse Johnson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

Jesse Johnson

RECOVERY THAT MOVES EVERYONE FORWARD

We passed a budget this year to help every community recover with investments in child care, K-12 education, behavioral health, workforce development and small businesses. Our budget provides:

- A business tax credit for 70% of our small businesses
- Grants to local chambers of commerce, main streets and other organizations to help meet community economic development needs
- Expanded child care funding and availability for families
- More counselors, nurses, psychologists and social workers in our schools
- Increased nurse education opportunities and tuition assistance to train new nurses
- Supports for mental health and substance use disorder providers

BILLS FOR FAMILIES, PUBLIC SAFETY & MORE

I'm proud to advocate for families, especially as a new dad myself. We passed bills that provide a **monthly diaper subsidy** to low-income households and create a new **certification for birth doulas**, who help families navigate labor, delivery and postpartum recovery. This certification will make doulas accessible for the 52% of state births covered by Medicaid.

We also made sure more kids have access to **outdoor learning opportunities** through the Outdoor School for All program, expanding its reach into underserved areas so students from diverse backgrounds can learn more about our natural environment.

Additionally, I helped pass legislation to reverse the massive spike in **catalytic converter thefts**. The bill tackles this problem from a number of different angles, including by requiring metal purchasers to document that a catalytic converter came from a vehicle registered in the seller's name, creating a new violation under the Consumer Protection Act for selling a used catalytic converter without verifying proof of ownership and providing more resources for law enforcement to crack down on this crime.



SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE & STUDENTS

Every young person deserves the chance to live a safe, stable and fulfilling life. As a former career and college counselor, I've worked to make that a reality for youth in our state. That's why I've championed policies that support:

- **Career Pathways:** In 2020, I advocated for creating and funding the first pre-apprenticeship program in the construction trades at Federal Way High School. This program, which is already up and running, gives students more opportunities to explore careers in well-paying fields.

- **Attorney Access:** My bill to ensure police and school resource officers provide young people access to an attorney before questioning them became law last year. Every kid deserves an opportunity to speak with an attorney who represents their best interests and provides good counsel before making decisions that will affect them for the rest of their life.

- **Mental Health:** We're facing a youth mental health crisis that's only gotten worse during the pandemic. That's why we passed a bill that allows students take excused absences from school to care for their mental health. Thank you to all the students who brought this issue to the Legislature, including from my alma mater, Federal Way High School.

I also advocated for funding to **prevent youth gun violence**, including grants through the Office of Firearm Safety and Violence Prevention to provide services to young people at high risk of perpetuating gun violence and who live in areas with high rates of gun violence. Federal Way is one of the priority communities that are a focus of these grant funds.

INVESTMENTS IN COMMUNITY RESOURCES

I helped secure funding in this year's budgets for our community, including to support:

- A workshop series that offers pathways to higher education and career opportunities in the arts and entertainment industries for low-income and historically disadvantaged youth and young adults in South King County
- Technical assistance services for small businesses owned or operated by members of historically disadvantaged populations, with a focus on Black-owned small businesses
- Fire safety upgrades at the Federal Way Boys & Girls Club
- A peer navigator program that mentors and supports Federal Way youth involved with the juvenile justice system who are at Green Hill School

