

2022 Session Report

As you may have heard, after almost 18 years serving as your state representative, I will be retiring at the end of this term. It's been a long ride and a wild experience but, above all, it has been a true honor to be your voice in our state Capitol.

I didn't accomplish everything I set out to do when I got here in 2005, but the victories we did win are significant. With your support and your input, I was able to reform Unemployment Insurance, modernize Workers' Comp, strengthen safety standards in the workplace, create internship and apprenticeship opportunities, and help establish Paid Family & Medical Leave. What I am most proud of are the creation of the Washington Aerospace Training & Research Center at Paine Field, bringing a Bachelor of Science Nursing program to Everett Community College through the Univ. of Washington Bothell, and the creation of WSU Everett.

I have been fortunate to work with many interesting, smart, and good people. I have great respect for former Senator John McCoy, especially what he did in changing the dynamics with tribal issues and educating me on them. Likewise, I have nothing but admiration and gratitude for my current seatmates, Senator June Robinson, and Representative Emily Wicks. The three of us made a great team diligently serving our communities in Everett, Marysville and Tulalip.

This newsletter will be my last report to you. I am including information on key investments made in each budget, summaries of some of the bills we passed to support working families, and the two measures clarifying use of force by law enforcement. I hope you find it informative and, as I am still your representative for the rest of the year, do send me an email or give me a call if you need more information on any of the issues covered here, if you have any feedback you'd like to share, or just to say goodbye.

Sincerely,



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House Committees:

- Labor & Workplace Standards, *Chair*
- Capital Budget
- College & Workforce Development

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OPERATING BUDGET

In this table you'll see the amounts appropriated in the biennial 2021-23 budget passed last year, as well as the supplemental budget approved this session:

Issue Area	2021-2023	2022
K-12 Education	\$2.3 Billion	\$808 Million
Higher Education	\$158 Million	\$283 Million
Children, Youth & Families	\$827 Million	\$245 Million
Homelessness & Housing	\$1.7 Billion	\$318 Million
Healthcare	\$1.3 Billion	\$837 Million
Behavioral Health	\$520 Million	\$277 Million
Human Services	\$1.2 Billion	\$211 Million
Long-Term Care	\$1.2 Billion	\$1.2 Billion
Public Safety	\$189 Million	\$215 Million
Natural Resources	\$342 Million	\$620 Million

For more information on the Operating, Capital and Transportation budgets, go to leap.leg.wa.gov



We also made investments to help our **economic recovery** with Business and Occupation tax credits, \$100 million for restaurants and hospitality businesses, \$75 million for disaster response, and \$25 million for arts programs.

CAPITAL BUDGET

Washington's Capital Budget, also known as the construction budget, generally provides funding for buildings and physical infrastructure projects throughout the state. This year, we were able to make investments in affordable housing & shelter for families (**\$439M**), broadband grants (**\$100M**), schools (**\$224M**), behavioral health (**\$111M**), clean energy (**\$101M**) and much more.

This year's budget also allocated **\$4.1 million for projects in our district**, including the Evergreen Recovery Centers' Residential Treatment Facility for Mothers with Children, the Everett-based 988-service expansion facility, the purchase of the Interfaith Family Shelter building, and improvements at the Port of Everett.



TRANSPORTATION BUDGET

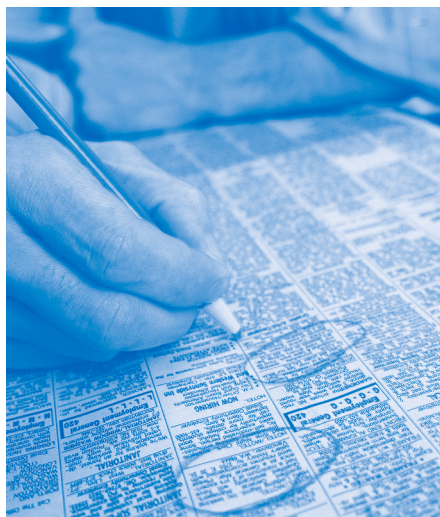
The \$11.7 billion supplemental budget invests in finishing projects already started and strengthening our transit network. But this year we also passed a huge \$16 billion transportation package called **Move Ahead Washington**, that focuses on preserving our existing infrastructure, reducing carbon emissions, and expanding safe, accessible, and affordable options to get around.

Projects in our area include addressing congestion and habitat restoration on I-5/SR 529, connecting communities with construction of the Grove Street overcrossing, and the Broadway Avenue pedestrian bridge.

Supporting Working Families

I have had the privilege of chairing the House Labor and Workplace Standards Committee for over a decade. During that time, as I mentioned earlier, we made significant changes to the Unemployment Insurance and the Workers' Compensation systems, and helped establish the Paid Family & Medical Leave Program. This year we put working families first with policies that encourage diversity, fairness, equity, and justice, including:

SB 5761 - This bill continues our work in pay equity by requiring employers to provide the wage scale or salary range in job postings. Not disclosing this information perpetuates disparities in offers and negotiations, negatively impacting women and people of color, which effectively maintains existing pay gaps.



HB 1795 - This measure prohibits the use of non-disclosure & non-disparagement agreements (NDAs) to block workers from speaking out about harassment, discrimination, retaliation, and wage-theft in the workplace. This bill is about empowering workers and giving them a voice.

SB 5763 – Last year we eliminated sub-minimum wage certificates and this session we are following up by repealing the statute allowing the Department of Labor and Industries to issue special certificates for the employment



of individuals with disabilities at wages lower than the applicable prevailing wage rate. This change ensures that workers with disabilities are valued and treated equitably.

HB 2076 - This bill creates the highest statewide minimum wage for rideshare drivers in the country and secures access to workers' compensation benefits, paid sick days, and protections against unfair driver termination. This victory puts an end to unsustainable pay cuts and ensures drivers' pay will rise with the cost of living.

SB 5873 - Last year, we passed legislation to reduce the impact of the pandemic on unemployment insurance premiums for businesses. This year we are reducing the cap back to 0.5% for 2022 - the same rate as last year – and lower the cap for 2023, with only a very minimal impact on the now healthy Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund. These changes will help restaurants and other small businesses as they continue recovering.



HB 1706 - I sponsored this bill to bring literal relief to long-haul truckers by requiring port terminal operators to provide sufficient restrooms in appropriate locations. It also grants the Department of Health and the Department of Labor and Industries jurisdiction to enforce this restroom requirement. The people who keep our economy moving and deliver the goods we all depend on deserve more access to restrooms and running water.



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State Representative Mike Sells

Public Safety

Last year the Legislature passed a comprehensive package of police reforms to set clear expectations for officers' behavior, a baseline for acceptable use of force, tactics, and equipment, and ensure accountability and transparency. This session, we passed two bills to make these reforms clearer:



Police use of force for community caretaking calls:

HB 1735 - Some in law enforcement contended that last year's police accountability laws prevented them from assisting designated crisis responders and mental and behavioral health specialists with involuntary treatments and other community caretaking functions. This bill clarifies that officers can use force, subject to the reasonable care standard, in behavioral health, child welfare and other related circumstances.

Clarifying police use of force policy:

HB 2037 - Since the implementation of last year's reforms, the complexities and nuances of police practices and applicable laws have posed some implementation challenges. Police have said that limiting the use of force has allowed people to flee the scene of a potential crime and that not having a definition of physical force creates too much ambiguity. This measure defines physical force and authorizes officers to use physical force, subject to the reasonable care standard, to stop someone from fleeing a temporary investigative detention.