



DAN BRONOSKE & MARI LEAVITT

REPRESENTATIVES 28TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT



Friends and neighbors,

We are pleased to share this update on the 2023 Legislation Session. For the first time in two years, we were back in Olympia. It was good to return to legislating in person and led to better debate, collaboration, and legislation. This year also marked a shift in legislative priorities from helping survive the pandemic to making sure no one is left behind.

Some of our main focuses were supporting working families, increasing our state's supply of housing, ensuring strong educational programs across the state, providing training and protection for our workforce, and improving public safety.

We also passed our 2023-25 operating, capital, and transportation budgets. The aptly named Resilient Washington Operating Budget, invests **\$69.3 Billion** to fund critical state services and boost funding for students, workers, behavioral health, housing, and climate action. It leaves \$3 billion in total reserves and **does not rely on any new general taxes**.

Major investments include:

- **\$1.1 B:** Behavioral health services & **\$1 B:** public health and health care
- **\$2.2 B:** K-12 education & **\$382 M** for higher education and workforce development
- **\$1.8 B:** Long-term care and developmental disabilities
- **\$684 M:** Natural resources, wildfire prevention, clean energy, and climate change
- **\$590 M:** Services for children, youth, and families
- **\$519 M:** Homelessness and housing
- **\$397 M:** Human services and poverty reduction
- **\$253 M:** Public safety, legal aid, and corrections

Our budgets build on the work done in previous years by making major investments so families have stable housing, students have the tools they need for success after graduation, and future generations can enjoy our natural areas.

This year's budget includes:

- A \$417 million increase in special education funding.
- The expansion of the senior citizens and disabled veterans' property tax exemption.
- Investing in children's ability to learn by expanding free school meals to 90,000 students.
- A \$100 million increase in early learning and working connections childcare.
- The implementation of the Working Families Tax Credit to help put money back into working families' pockets.

Government works best when it invests in people. As we continue to move past the state of emergency, the Resilient Washington Budget will help ensure every Washingtonian achieves success and stability.

Sincerely,

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REPRESENTATIVE DAN BRONOSKE

INCREASING THE AVAILABILITY OF COLORECTAL CANCER SCREENINGS



Colorectal cancer (CRC) is the second deadliest cancer in the United States. One in 24 people will be diagnosed with CRC in their lifetime. However, screenings can detect colorectal cancer early, making treatment much more effective.

This year, the Legislature (95-0 in the House) passed my bill, **House Bill 1626**, to allow Washington's medical assistance programs to cover non-invasive colorectal cancer screenings. Currently, colonoscopies are the only form of screening covered. While a colonoscopy is the gold standard to screen for CRC, it is a highly invasive procedure. We now have non-invasive screening tests that can be done at home. Getting more people earlier screenings allows for more early detections, which greatly increases the effectiveness of treatment. This bill will save lives. If you are over 45, talk to your doctor and get screened for CRC.

PROTECTING WORKERS

My main policy focus this year was protecting workers on the job and ensuring that when a worker is injured, they are treated fairly. I prime sponsored the following bills to keep our workers safe and healthy.



House Bill 1542: Requiring AEDs for lineworkers

Lineworkers do the hard and dangerous work of keeping our power-grid operational. They work on high-voltage lines, often in inclement weather.

Touching a high-voltage line can cause cardiac arrest, and during cardiac arrest access to an Automatic External Defibrillator can mean the difference between life and death. There are numerous examples of AEDs being used on a lineworker, allowing that worker to go home to their family. Most major companies already provide and maintain AEDs for their workers. This bill would simply ensure this best practice is adopted by all employers and no one gets left behind.



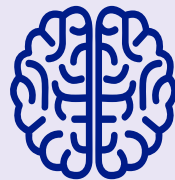
House Bill 1068: Protecting injured workers rights during compelled medical examinations

When a worker is injured on the job they receive workers' compensation either through the State Fund or a self-insured employer. During that time the state or employer can compel the worker to get an independent medical exam to verify their injury. Unfortunately, we have had reports of doctors who do not have injured workers' best interests in mind. This bill simply allows the worker to record their compelled examination or bring one person of their choosing with them. In this way, we can be sure that injured workers are getting the compensation they have earned and deserve.



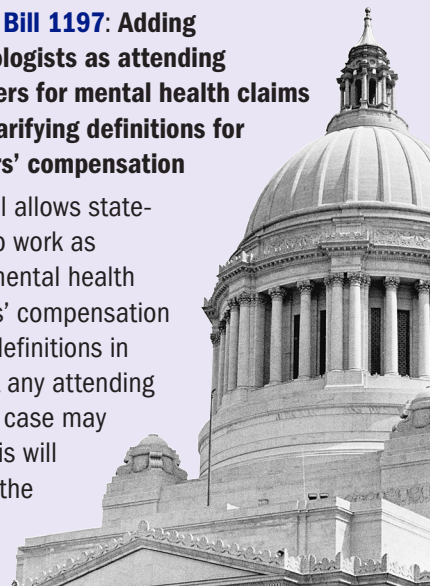
House Bill 1521: Ensuring injured workers get the care they deserve

Injured municipal and private sector firefighters and public workers, whose employers are self-insured often have their care managed by third-party administrators (TPAs). TPAs are incentivized to keep costs low, leading to the denial of legitimate claims and delayed care for injured workers. This bill establishes a duty of "good faith and fair dealing" as well as penalties for violating that standard. This will help make sure injured municipal and private sector firefighting workers get the care and treatment they deserve without delay.



House Bill 1197: Adding psychologists as attending providers for mental health claims and clarifying definitions for workers' compensation

This bill allows state-licensed psychologists to work as attending providers for mental health claims under the workers' compensation system. It also clarifies definitions in statute and ensures that any attending provider who works on a case may be required to testify. This will help injured workers get the care they need.



REPRESENTATIVE MARI LEAVITT

Five of the most pressing issues we face include supporting veterans and military families, community safety, housing, workforce shortages, and consumer protection. We had some significant successes this session, including some bills I introduced or co-sponsored.

KEEPING OUR COMMUNITIES SAFE



Counterfeit tablets containing fentanyl are causing overdoses across Washington. I sponsored **House Bill 1209** to control the possession, sale, or delivery of a tablet press.

Sam Martinez died from alcohol poisoning while being hazed during fraternity initiation. I introduced Sam's Law (**House Bill 1002**) to raise the penalty for hazing to a gross misdemeanor or a Class C felony if substantial bodily harm is involved and allow survivors to seek a restraining order.



HOUSING

The legislature tackled Washington's housing supply crisis by allowing for more diverse housing options (**House Bill 1110**), expanding the use of accessory dwelling units (**House Bill 1337**), and streamlining

development regulations (**House Bill 1293**). I have worked on this last issue in the past and am glad to have seen it get to the Governor's desk.

PROTECTING CONSUMERS



I introduced **House Bill 1051** to protect Washingtonians

from predatory robocalling and telephone scams, which frequently target Washington's most vulnerable residents. **House Bill 1051** makes it easier to recover damages, strengthens our robocalling laws, and clarifies their connection to the Consumer Protection Act.

We also increased foreclosure protections, even for those in homeowner associations.

House Bill 1349 and **House Bill 1636** go a long way toward keeping people in their homes.



ADDRESSING WORKFORCE CHALLENGES

Workforce challenges are impacting many sectors and we made progress in several of those fields this session. Many Washingtonians struggle accessing behavioral health services, a key hurdle in our response to the substance use crisis. We must increase the health care and behavioral health care workforce quickly. **House Bill 1724** addresses workforce barriers, expands practice settings for probationary license holders, reduces requirements and costs for social workers, and ensures efforts to alleviate workforce shortages.

I sponsored many workforce compacts to get folks to work quickly in crucial fields. These include sponsoring **House Bill 1069** for mental health counseling, **House Bill 1001** for speech and audiologists and **House Bill 1576** for dentists and dental hygienists.

Many areas experiencing a workforce shortage require a graduate degree. Prohibitively expensive loans hinder workforce development. **House Bill 1823** implements low-interest loans and **House Bill 1030** allows for the expansion of degrees regionally so students can remain where they work or are raising a family.

SUPPORTING VETERANS AND MILITARY FAMILIES



I offered the Military Spouse Employment Act (**House Bill 1009**) to ease the transition to employment by making it easier for

military spouses to get professional licenses when they move to a new state due to a change of duty station as well as ensure transparency and ease burdens.

Many of our military members are also teachers, firefighters and police officers.

House Bill 1007 ensures veterans with an expeditionary medal or badge can get all their well-deserved public employee retirement credits.

House Bill 1346 establishes the Purple Star Award for school districts providing better support for military-connected students.

House Bill 1355 lowers property taxes for seniors, veterans, and those with disabilities by expanding eligibility for property tax relief.

STATE REPRESENTATIVES

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LOCAL PROJECTS

We are constantly advocating for funding for important local projects in the Capital and Transportation budgets. These are some important wins (and there are more!) for our community in this year's budgets:

CAPITAL BUDGET

- Housing Trust Fund: Housing for individuals with developmental disabilities, permanent supportive housing, preservation projects, and mobile home restoration. (\$500,000 **LASA Lakewood**)
- Building repairs at **Clover Park Technical College & Pierce College** (\$4.75 million)
- A new 350-bed forensic hospital at **Western State hospital**. (\$613 million)
- New National Guard Joint Forces Headquarters at **Camp Murray**. (\$54 million)
- Community center renovation project on **Anderson Island** (\$258,000)
- History project in partnership with the Nisqually Tribe at **Fort Steilacoom Park** (\$309,000)
- Assistance with sewer costs in **University Place** (\$200,000)
- Getting PFAS out of the water system in **Lakewood** (\$3.72 million)
- Environmental cleanup on a project in **Dupont** (\$215,000)
- Resources to renovate the **Steilacoom Tribal Center** (\$200,000)
- Pickleball courts in **Harry Todd Park** (\$350,000)
- **McNeil Island** Passenger Ferry Replacement (\$900,000)
- Children's Therapy Center, **Tacoma/University Place** (\$500,000)

TRANSPORTATION BUDGET

- I-5 JBLM Corridor Improvements: an additional lane between Thorne Lane and the Mounts Road Interchange and a connector road between Gravelly Lake Drive and Thorne Lane to divert local traffic off I-5 (\$555 million)
- Nisqually Delta/I-5 Improvements (\$58 million)
- Pierce Transit **Spanaway Transit Center**: Expand and enhance park and ride facilities (\$7 million)

Additionally, the Transportation Budget funds several local community projects including expanding the KIDS RIDE FREE program to the **Pierce County ferries**, the **Day Island Bridge** project; and crosswalk work in **Fircrest** for pedestrian safety.

SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF THE 28TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT