

33rd Legislative District 2024 SESSION REPORT

Dear neighbors,

May 2024

This session we were able to make important changes and investments to support Washingtonians across the state. Thank you for the honor to serve our community in Olympia.

I want to take a moment to thank my seatmate, Senator Karen Keiser, for her years of dedicated service to our community and for being a champion for working families and healthcare. She has been an incredible partner and will be missed!

One of the biggest challenges for residents of the 33rd district is living near Sea-Tac International Airport and its impact on our lives, including disproportionate health risks. Sen. Keiser and I teamed up to sponsor Port mitigation legislation (**HB 2103 / SB 5955**) to address this issue. With the help of community leaders, our city partners, and the Port, we are pleased that the Senate bill made it to the governor's desk! This new law establishes a grant program to repair failed soundproofing for affected homes. There's \$1 million in the operating budget, \$2 million in federal dollars, and the Port has allocated \$5 million to fund the grant program. In addition, there's \$6 million from the Climate Commitment Act account for air quality mitigation in South King County. These investments illustrate our state's dedication to addressing environmental and public health concerns.

As the sponsor of past legislation that established the 988 lifeline, I'm proud to share that, this session, two of my bills to increase and improve services for people struggling with mental health issues were enacted into law:

HB 2088 provides crisis responders with essential liability protections during the performance of their duties, ensuring that clinical crisis response teams can operate swiftly and effectively; and **HB 1939** streamlines the licensing process for out-of-state social workers, increasing access to vital mental health services, and will support military spouses who move into our state. We also made investments in Crisis Receiving Centers and Psychiatric facilities to help those struggling with mental health issues who need more intensive services.

We took decisive action to safeguard Washingtonians, particularly minors, from the distribution of fabricated intimate images with the passage of my legislation (**HB 1999**) establishing criminal offenses and civil remedies to combat their dissemination, prioritizing the well-being of our communities.

Another achievement was the passage of my bill (**HB 1300**) to empower patients and ensure accountability for assisted reproduction healthcare providers, underscoring our commitment to protecting patient safety.

While my bill concerning crimes involving human trafficking and sexual exploitation (**HB 2076**) did not pass, its policy was amended into **SB 6006**. This measure will improve how the state responds to child survivors of human trafficking as well as giving prosecutors the tools to hold predators accountable.

Due to space constraints, this report only includes some of the highlights passed this session, if there's something you're concerned about that is not covered here, or if you want more information on any legislative issues, please don't hesitate to contact my office.

As we move forward, working together, we will continue to strive for a safer, healthier, and more inclusive future.

Sincerely,

Tina Orwall



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Committees:

Capital Budget
Health Care & Wellness
Regulated Substances & Gaming
Rules

KEEPING WASHINGTON FAMILIES SAFE

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TREATMENT EXPANSION

In 2023, Fentanyl claimed more than 112,000 lives across America, surpassing all prior overdose epidemics in the country. The Centers for Disease Control rank Washington 18 among all states in overdose deaths.

The Capital Budget provides \$82.7 million to build behavioral health care facilities across Washington, including purchasing an inpatient treatment facility in Tukwila. The Operating Budget also invests in access to treatment, education, awareness, outreach, and prevention with \$215 million in new funding, and an additional \$245 million in behavioral health capacity, rate increases, and outpatient and personal care programs.

Bipartisan steps on treatment and prevention include: easier access to services for children and young adults (**HB 2256**); appropriate and timely care for minors during mental health crises (**SB 5853**); a statewide drug overdose prevention and education campaign (**SB 5906**); materials and learning standards for all students on life-threatening drug use (**HB 1956**); protecting children from fentanyl exposure (**SB 6109**); and stocking life-saving overdose reversal medication in all schools and higher-ed institutions (**SB 5804** and **HB 2112**).

VEHICULAR PURSUITS

The Legislature passed **Initiative 2113** to establish a middle ground in police pursuits by upholding vital safety protocols, while empowering local communities to implement pursuit policies tailored to their unique requirements. It maintains guidelines such as the balancing test, which evaluates the need of a pursuit against its potential threat to the community. Additionally, it mandates supervisory oversight along with training, planning, and communication standards.

FIREARMS

This year we are creating safe spaces by prohibiting guns in places like zoos, aquariums, libraries, and transit stations (**SB 5444**); allowing the WSP to destroy, rather than sell, seized weapons (**HB 2021**); ensuring that firearms dealers store their inventory safely (**HB 2118**); and requiring gun owners to report within 24 hours if a gun is lost or stolen (**HB 1903**).



INCREASING HOUSING

Last session, the legislature made significant progress on increasing housing supply by expanding the use of familiar housing options like duplexes and townhomes (**HB 1110** and **HB 1337**). We also invested a record \$400 million into affordable housing through the Housing Trust Fund in the 2023 Capital Budget and an additional \$127.5 million in the 2024 supplemental budget.

This year, we continued to expand our ability to increase housing supply by accelerating the construction of affordable workforce housing (**HB 1892**); streamlining the construction of small condominium buildings (**SB 5792**); preventing common-interest communities from imposing arbitrary occupancy limits (**HB 1054**); paving the way for co-living housing (**HB 1998**), and expanding protections for mobile home park tenants (**SB 6059**).



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A FAIR SYSTEM FOR EVERY STUDENT



Every student deserves access to the necessary resources, opportunities, and assistance to flourish. This year, we increased the cap to allow more funding for special education (**HB 2180**); shifted the burden of proof in special education due process hearings from the student's parents to the school district (**SB 5883**); directed new funding to support paraeducators in classrooms (**SB 5882**); and increased funding for schools' daily operating costs (**HB 2494**).

New funding (**HB 2195**) boosts the construction of badly needed early learning facilities, while another new law (**HB 1851**) provides funding for a consult line to pediatricians and school counselors who are delivering evidence-based behavioral health skills training to youth.

We expanded dual and tribal language programs (**HB 1228**) to nurture cultural diversity and unlock the potential of every child; took steps to stop would-be book bans (**HB 2331**); ensured that students learn about the contributions of ALL Washingtonians so they can see themselves reflected in their schools' curricula (**SB 5462**); and reduced the burden of debt by ensuring students and their parents know about dual credit programs and financial aid opportunities (**HB 1146**).

MORE PATHS TO SUCCESS

The way to a gainful, productive, and fulfilling future is squarely dependent on marketable skills. This is why we continue to fight for improved access and opportunity, such as investing \$400K for Running Start for the Trades Summer Program.

We also expanded pre-eligibility for the Washington College Grant (**HB 2214**); aligned financial eligibility for federal and state aid programs (**SB 5904**); increased opportunities for college students receiving federal work-study funds (**HB 2025**); and improved access to the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program (**HB 1950**). We also established a Native American apprenticeship assistance program (**HB 2019**) and created a health corps behavioral health scholarship (**HB 1946**) to increase access for marginalized communities. Additionally, we extended foster care services for youth ages 18 to 21 so they can better transition to adulthood (**SB 5908**).

HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

Inhalers for asthma and epi-pens are life-saving devices that have skyrocketed in price. A new law (**HB 1979**) will cap their cost to \$35/month.

Washington's health care cost trends are outpacing the rest of the nation, so we passed **HB 1508** to improve our state's health care cost transparency board by adding more consumers to the committee, reforming how data is shared between agencies, and requiring surveys to learn more about insurance usage.

Preventative health care is smart and cost-effective, so we expanded the services covered without a co-pay (**HB 1957**) to include screening for common afflictions like lung and colon cancers.

We are also taking an important step toward cleaner air for kids and communities through a zero-emission school bus grant program (**HB 1368**).

Update on hearing aids: last year the governor signed my bill requiring insurance providers to cover hearing aids. Under the new law, insurance must cover up to \$6,000 in coverage that includes the hearing instrument, initial assessment, fitting, adjustment, auditory training, and ear molds.



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A WORD ON THE BUDGETS

OPERATING BUDGET

This budget prioritizes communities in need and focuses on equity by making targeted investments in healthcare, energy assistance, housing, and education. Highlights include \$335 million for climate initiatives, \$335 million for K-12 education, \$115 million for early learning and childcare, \$215 million for opioid and fentanyl response, and \$245 million for behavioral health. Funding also supports long-term care, public health, homelessness, college, and workforce development.

CAPITAL BUDGET

Major investments in this year's \$1.3 billion budget include \$79 million for school construction, \$82.7 million for behavioral health facilities, and \$127.5 million for affordable housing through the Housing Trust Fund.

TRANSPORTATION BUDGET

The \$14.6 billion investment prioritizes climate action through the Climate Commitment Act totaling over \$300 million for projects to reduce carbon emissions and promote clean transportation. There's also funding for electric school buses, electric vehicle charging infrastructure, public transit enhancements, and pedestrian safety measures.

For more information on the three budgets, including project maps and lists, please visit fiscal.wa.gov

