

2023 END OF SESSION REVIEW

Representative  
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- Committees:**
- Human Services, Youth & Early Learning (Chair)
  - Appropriations
  - Innovation, Community & Economic Development & Veterans

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

After two historic remote sessions, the 2023 legislative session returned to in-person proceedings in Olympia. We championed many meaningful policies that will undoubtedly have a positive impact on our community and I'm excited to share some key accomplishments!

Washington led the way in upholding the fundamental rights of privacy and bodily autonomy by passing a robust package of bills related to reproductive care. Because of our work, a person seeking an abortion and any medical professional providing reproductive care can do so in our state without fearing legal consequences from anti-choice laws in other states. In addition, youth seeking reproductive or gender-affirming care can safely access shelter in Washington state.

We also contended with community safety. We passed three bills that represent a significant effort toward preventing the devastating impacts of gun violence (more inside). With the engagement of his Bellevue parents, we passed the Sam Martinez Stop Hazing Law to help save lives and prevent hazing death tragedies. Additionally, we passed legislation to ensure police can pursue dangerous suspects where warranted and allowed.

The legislature focused on education and addressing workforce shortages—in behavioral health and nursing, the trades and long-term care, computer science and the green economy—including by increasing access to high-quality and affordable childcare.

In addition to my committee roles, I am honored to serve as the Moms Caucus co-chair and co-president of the National Association of Jewish Legislators. With the ongoing rise of hate crimes, I'm thrilled we secured additional funding for Holocaust education.

I invite you to continue reading inside for more updates on our legislative and fiscal accomplishments this session. Thank you for being such engaged constituents. It is an honor to represent you!

*Tana Senn*  
Rep. Tana Senn



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FUNDING LOCAL PROJECTS



This session, we secured key investments for local community projects including to:

- Establish the Eastside Early Childhood Center at Temple B'nai Torah in Bellevue with 80 slots for much needed childcare
- Renovate the Boys & Girls Club of Bellevue's Lake Hills Teen Center
- Repair and improve facilities at Bellevue College
- Build a municipal water treatment plant to protect our Sammamish and Issaquah communities from toxic PFAS chemicals
- Build the CrossTown Trail in Newcastle
- Increase habitat restoration and outdoor recreation at the regional Luther Burbank Park on Mercer Island





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### PREVENTING GUN VIOLENCE



The fight for gun responsibility has been a long-time passion of mine, having been involved with the Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle when there was a hate crime shooting there. As a mother, it pains me to witness the trauma caused by ongoing gun violence in our communities and schools. No wonder students across the country have been speaking out—gun violence is the leading cause of death for US children.

We listened and took action. This session, we:

- Banned the manufacture, sale, and distribution of assault weapons (**HB 1240**)
- Required a 10-day waiting period and safety training for most firearm purchases (**HB 1143**)
- Will hold the firearm industry accountable to responsibly market and sell their products (**SB 5078**).

These new laws represent a significant effort towards ensuring the safety of our communities and preventing the devastating impact of gun violence.



### INVESTING IN OUR KIDS

I am honored to chair the Human Services, Youth & Early Learning Committee in the House and help shepherd dozens of bills through the legislative process.

#### Developmental Disability Services for Foster Youth

Did you know that foster youth in Washington state have been ineligible for developmental disability services? This is despite the fact that the lack of access can exacerbate a youth's challenges, create significant family stress, and have severe consequences on children's hospitals and the behavioral health system. I'm proud to report I successfully passed **HB 1188**, ensuring youth in the child welfare system have equitable access to needed developmental disability services, just like their peers.

#### Children's Mental Health

Children's mental health has always been one of my top priorities. I secured funding to expand the UW's Masters in Applied Child and Adolescent Psychology program and scholarships, bolstering the workforce serving youth. We also took steps to address children 'stuck in hospitals' after a mental health crisis, passed a 15% rate increase for providers, and funded the 988 crisis response and suicide prevention system.

#### Childcare Access

We continue to make significant strides to address the state's childcare crisis, which impacts families, businesses, and our overall economy. We passed my **HB 1199**, preventing homeowners' associations from banning childcares, and other bills that allow low-income apprentices, mixed immigration status families, and childcare providers to qualify for childcare assistance.



#### Special Education

Every student deserves the opportunity to receive a high-quality education. The legislature invested billions of new dollars in public education, including a huge increase in special education funding. I also secured a rate enhancement for Early Support for Infants and Toddlers (ESIT) providers.

### EDUCATION FUNDING NEWS

In a much-anticipated ruling, the Washington State Supreme Court upheld our recently passed capital gains tax dedicated to early learning and the state's paramount duty of public education! A major win for tax fairness, too!

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### ADDRESSING HOUSING NEEDS



Housing was a central issue this session and for good reason: Washington is projected to need 1.1 million new homes—of every kind and in every community—over the next decade. Already, seniors can't find places to downsize, teachers and young families can't afford homes, and people with low incomes are struggling to stay housed at all.

There isn't one single solution to these problems. We must increase supply, streamline regulations, and support those unable to afford housing. And we did just that.

- **HB 1110** will increase the supply of middle housing by requiring cities to allow more diverse housing options.
- **SB 5258** reforms condo liability and warranty regulations and creates a down payment assistance program for first-time condo and townhome buyers.
- **HB 1355** expands eligibility for property tax relief for seniors, veterans, and people with disabilities...and now will account for the higher cost of living in our communities.

In addition, the state made a historic \$500 million investment in the Housing Trust Fund to help build more affordable housing.

### SAVING OUR ENVIRONMENT



In addition to major environmental wins in reducing plastic pollution and creating a battery recycling program, we made progress on greening our transportation system. While I'll continue to pursue my bill to require and fund zero-emission school buses, we did fund \$150 million for the expansion of zero-emission trucks—and school buses—to further promote sustainable transportation and keep moving toward a greener future!

### MOMS (AND DADS) IN THE HOUSE!



The Moms Caucus in the House is a powerful group of mom and dad legislators committed to passing legislation and making budget investments to improve the quality of life for Washington parents, families, and children. This year, we helped:

- Expand free school meals to 90,000 additional low-income students
- Increase rates for non-standard hours of childcare to help support nurses, construction workers and others with long or late shifts
- Expand access to diapers for low-income families
- Improve access to postdelivery services to help improve maternal health outcomes