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2022 END OF SESSION UPDATE
49th DISTRICT



**Monica
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STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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Committees:

- Appropriations
- Education
- Health Care & Wellness
- Rules

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

The Legislature closed out the 2022 legislative session with both strong victories for the people of Washington and ongoing plans to continue our unfinished work.

2021 was truly an historic session after we passed landmark policies addressing sustainability, economic recovery, racial justice, and much more. I'm proud that we built on this foundation in 2022 to pass more bills that put families, students, small businesses, and workers first—in every corner of the state and especially here in the 49th District.

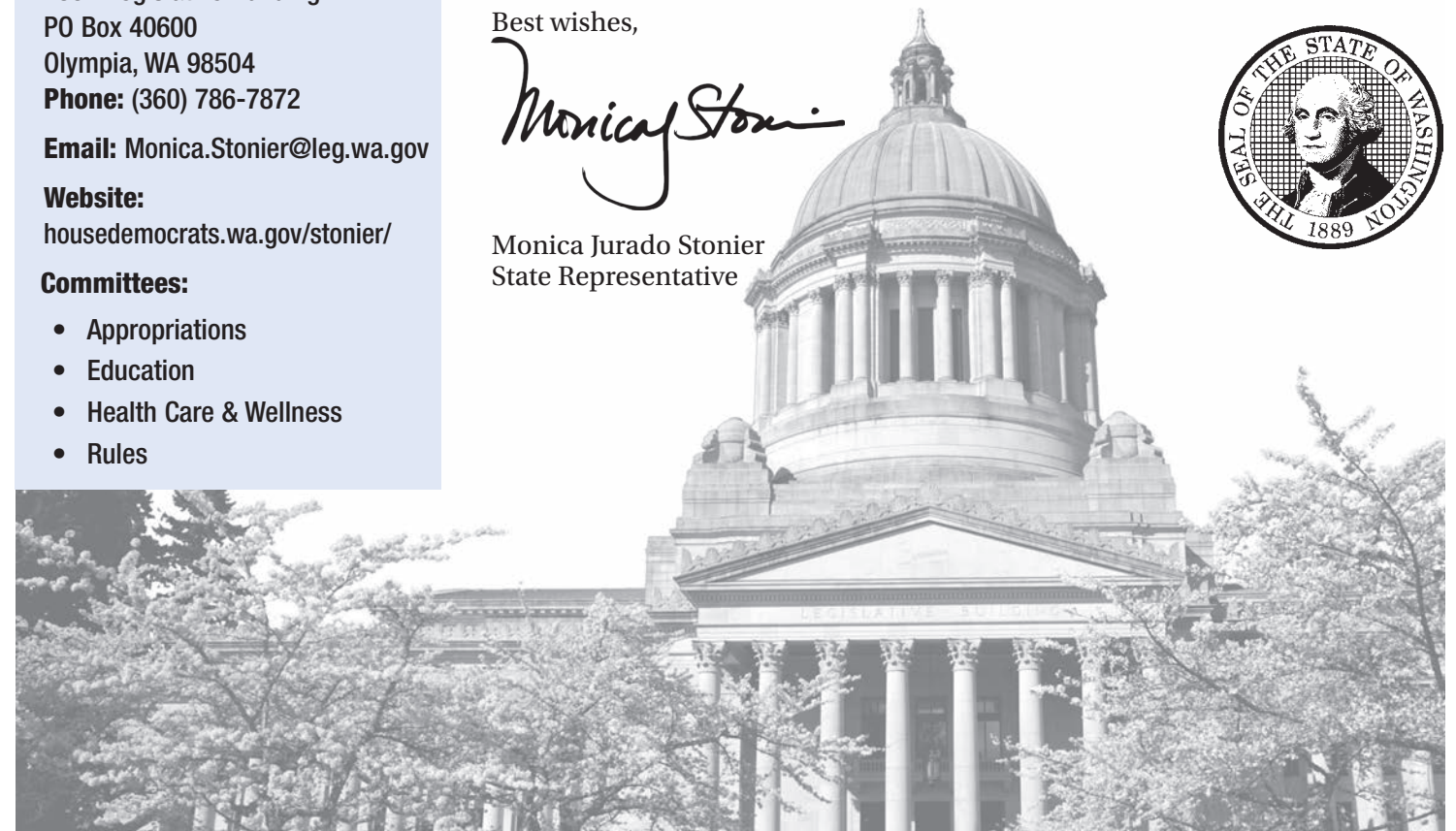
In 60 days, we expanded resources for students' well-being. We took decisive action to keep communities safe from the preventable tragedy of gun violence. We made investments in everything from rent assistance to reductions in health care costs, and we passed three robust budgets to support our communities today, tomorrow, and well beyond.

We did all this while operating mostly remotely for the second year in a row. Our public health response kept staff, members, and the public safe without a single COVID-19 outbreak in the Legislature.

Thank you for taking the time to read this legislative update. I'm honored to serve as your state representative every single day. Please keep in touch to share your thoughts about the work we are doing in the Legislature, and I look forward to connecting with you in community this summer and fall.

Best wishes,

Monica Jurado Stonier
State Representative



LD49

Bringing Dolly Parton's Imagination Library to Washington

House Bill 2068, a new law that I introduced, will bring Dolly Parton's Imagination Library to Washington. One of the best indicators of a child's education, health, and happiness later in life is whether they have books around them in their earliest years. Dolly is a national treasure, and I'm thrilled to have her Imagination Library bring books directly to the hands and homes of our tiniest readers.



**DOLLY PARTON'S
IMAGINATION
LIBRARY
IS COMING TO WASHINGTON**



2022 END OF SESSION UPDATE

49th DISTRICT

Strengthening Economic Recovery

The last two years have been long and challenging, with many of us forced to reassemble our everyday lives multiple times in the face of uncertainty. We're still recovering from the pandemic and its profound impacts.

This session, the Legislature championed policies that promote long-term economic recovery across the state.

One bill we passed was **House Bill 1359**, my bill temporarily reducing liquor license fees to help the restaurant and hospitality industries recover from the pandemic. Many small businesses are still struggling with lower sales, and they need meaningful relief to continue operating.

We established additional small business assistance through caps on unemployment insurance premiums (**Senate Bill 5873**) and increased business and occupation (B&O) tax credits (**Senate Bill 5890**).

After hearing from many businesses and entrepreneurs, I'm confident that these responsive measures will help them stay open and creative, as well as expand competitive opportunities in our community.

The Legislature also took significant action to invest in and protect the backbone of our economy: workers.

We required employers to include salary ranges in job postings (**Senate Bill 5761**), enacted the nation's highest statewide minimum wage for rideshare drivers (**House Bill 2076**), and prohibited the abusive use of non-disclosure agreements that prevent employees from speaking out about harassment, discrimination, and wage theft (**House Bill 1795**).

Through **Senate Bill 5838**, we also provided a monthly diaper subsidy for families struggling to make ends meet.



Supporting Students and Families



Today's students are the bold leaders of tomorrow. We have a responsibility to nurture opportunities for every child to learn, grow, and get a good start in life.

I'm particularly proud to have voted for **House Bill 1664**, a new law that brings more counselors, nurses, and social workers to our schools. Educators and families have worked hard to support students, but they had been stretched thin even before the pandemic's devastating mental health impacts. This policy supports our children's physical and emotional growth as they continue toward promising futures.

The Legislature made further strides by establishing a culturally responsive school language access program (**House Bill 1153**), ensuring schools serve every family and student, no matter what language they speak.

We also took steps to provide free meals to over 92,000 students (**House Bill 1878**) and expand outdoor school programs (**House Bill 2078**).

I plan to continue work on two bills that did not pass this session.

Schools across Washington are crumbling because they can't get the 60 percent vote they need to pass their bonds, often failing just a few percentage points below 60. I wrote **House Bill 1226** to allow school bonds to pass at 50 percent, the same rate as school levies.

I also sponsored **House Bill 1162** to help all students find the right path forward in life by making the road to graduation relevant, accessible, and future-focused. The bill gives students meaningful graduation pathways where they can purposefully apply their skills.

I appreciate the strong community support for both these bills and look forward to passing them in the future.

2022 END OF SESSION UPDATE

49th DISTRICT

Protecting Public Health

The 2022 legislative session began with a curveball. We planned to work in a hybrid session but had to pivot to a mostly remote format with the rapid spread of the Omicron variant. Though we had to swiftly transition plans, the Legislature prioritized safety and transparency in moving forward with the people's work.

I'm proud that our responsive actions allowed us to go all 60 days without a COVID-19 outbreak in the Legislature and the resulting interruptions of quarantining, mass testing, and confusion.

As COVID-19 case rates improved, we slowly allowed more members into the legislative chambers to debate on the House floor. By the end of session, we were successfully holding hybrid floor debates. Some members voluntarily worked from the Capitol, masked and safely distanced, while others chose to continue working entirely remotely.

All the while, we maintained thorough public access online, from remote committee testimony to livestreamed debates on TVW.org.

As House majority floor leader, my role is to coordinate floor debate and ensure bipartisan cooperation in the process. The Legislature proved that we can serve the people of Washington transparently, effectively, and honorably and still take reasonable public health precautions in debate.

Thanks to all the new ways to virtually engage with the lawmaking process, the work of the Legislature is more accessible than ever. It is truly a privilege to support the passage of so much significant legislation that will make meaningful positive impacts in the lives of so many. This process works because of your involvement and ideas. I hope to see many of you continue to help shape our future in sessions to come.

