

Workforce support

The construction trade has long been dominated by men, but gender diversity has been on the rise in that industry, and now construction employees who are menstruating or lactating can go to work knowing that there are sanitary provisions and appropriate accommodations to meet their needs.

I wrote this bill because I remember how tough it can be as a new mom, especially a new mom who has to reenter the workforce right away while being the sole food source for a child, and providing lactation and menstruation support is how we increase gender diversity in our trades.



Budget wins in the 49th District

Every year lawmakers get to request funding for projects in our districts. With this year's supplemental budget more than \$3.5 million will be invested in projects around the 49th, including:

- \$200K for the Vancouver Family Resource Center expansion. The Center is a key resource for providing youth behavioral health crisis support for youth and families. This funding will help them expand their facility to broaden their capacity to serve our community.
- \$200K for the Council for the Homeless Building Rehabilitation. CFTH has been a leading responder to homelessness in the community since 1989. Their workforce is growing and this funding will help prepare additional office space to meet that need.
- \$1.3M for college campuses and climate recovery. This will fund the installation of utility submeters in local community and technical colleges to ensure compliance with the 2019 Clean Buildings Act.
- \$1M for the Vancouver Housing Authority energy retrofit.
- \$600K for the Columbia River Mental Health Services Clinic.
- \$500K for the State School for the Blind campus preservation.

For more budget information please visit www.leap.leg.wa.gov or reach out to my office if you have any questions.

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49th DISTRICT • 2024 END OF SESSION UPDATE

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- Appropriations
- Education
- Health Care & Wellness
- Rules

LD49



**Monica
Jurado
Stonier**
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

2024 UPDATE
49th DISTRICT

Dear Neighbors,

The 60-day legislative session wrapped up on Thursday, March 7 when the House and Senate adjourned Sine Die around 6:00PM after passing our final bills for the 2024 supplemental budget.

We worked hard this session to pass bills that will bring relief to Washingtonians struggling to find, afford, or keep housing; to respond to the fentanyl and opioid crisis through prevention, outreach, and treatment; and to fund education

in all of our schools for all students, including raising the cap for special education funding.

I've seen the headlines about students walking out of class to protest funding cuts and as an educator, I understand that we can't expect our students to thrive if we don't fund our schools. That's why I'm continuing the fight to balance the cost of education with the investments we made in this year's supplemental budget,

I want to draw your attention to the investments made possible by revenue from the Climate Commitment Act (CCA). The CCA funded school improvement projects, helped fund our \$1.3 billion construction budget, and you'll be able to see those dollars at work through local projects like the Vancouver Family Resource Center expansion and energy retrofits through the Vancouver Housing Authority for multifamily buildings.

This year we also added \$1 billion in funding to our biennial transportation budget that goes towards projects like the I-5 Columbia River Bridge improvements (\$275 million) and highway preservation (\$100 million).

This couldn't happen without your support and involvement.

I want to thank everyone who wrote, emailed, called the Hotline—your comments and ideas are quite important to me.

A special thanks to people who took the time to attend one of our 49th District town hall meetings. It was so good to see you and hear your stories and thoughts.

If you have an idea or question, please get in touch with my office!

Best wishes,


Monica Jurado Stonier
State Representative



Ending child marriage in Washington and protections against fabricated images

The House passed my bill to end child marriage in Washington on the first day of this year's legislative session and it was signed into law by the governor on day 60. I especially want to thank Skylar, a middle school student from Vancouver Public Schools who reached out and encouraged me to introduce this bill. She is an example of engaged, high-performing, and civics minded students who are thriving in our public schools.

Ending this practice in our state means that young adults are no longer at risk of becoming trapped in a potentially dangerous situation that they have no legal recourse to get out of and prevents marriage from being used as a cover-up for sex trafficking or a sex crime.

With the rise in AI, concerns about fabricated images being weaponized have been growing. This technology is new, but that doesn't mean it can't cause harm. We added protections against the online exploitation of fabricated intimate images, particularly those involving minors, to address deepfakes and other digitally altered content being used for harm.



Affordable housing and homelessness

Washington is going to need more than a million new homes in the next 20 years to keep up with the housing demand in our state. This year we passed policies that built on last year's housing legislation to encourage affordable housing development and better use our existing supply to meet our needs.

On the policy side we passed legislation to legalize co-living and created incentives to convert existing commercial structures into residential housing. We created a Workforce Housing Accelerator Program to speed up the construction of affordable workforce housing across the state and prevented arbitrary occupancy limits from being imposed on property owners by homeowners associations to support multi-generational living and unit sharing.

Our \$1.3 billion supplemental construction budget also included \$127.5 million for the Housing Trust Fund to develop affordable housing, \$34 million for local homelessness services, and \$19 million for housing vulnerable populations, supporting tenant's rights, and encouraging homeownership.

Fentanyl and opioid response

Ending the opioid crisis in our state is going to take more than one solution. That's why we passed legislation this year to combat the crisis from both ends: outreach prevention and education, and treatment and recovery.

Opioid overdoses are increasing fastest among youth, which is why we directed the Department of Health to implement a statewide drug overdose prevention and awareness campaign and requires age-appropriate substance use prevention and awareness materials made available for K-12 students, and made overdose reversal drugs available to students and staff at our colleges and universities.

Tribal members in Washington are four times more likely to overdose and die from opioids than the state average. That is why Tribal, state, and local governments will coordinate to deliver crisis response in a way that aligns the culturally unique approaches and practices of Washington tribes.

Protecting access to diverse materials for students and funding education

Book bans have been increasing nationally over the last few years, which is why I sponsored a bill to make sure that students in Washington will always have access to materials written by and about people from marginalized groups. When students can identify with a character or situation, it can spark a lifelong love of reading, and this bill makes sure that can happen for every student at every school.

My bill to recognize the importance of school bus drivers as our kid's first and last points of contact during the school day by requiring contractors to offer comparable benefits also passed this year, as did a bill to expand dual and tribal language education programs so our students can better compete for jobs when they leave school.

In the operating budget we increased the cap for special education funding to 16% (\$26 million in new funding) and supported our paraeducators through an increase of \$72 million for prototypical school staffing.



Through the capital budget we added \$79 million for local school construction and put \$69 million into skill center and career/technical education development.

Vancouver police training center opened in January

The Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission (WSCJTC) provides training for criminal justice professionals, including peace officers and local corrections officers. The newest WSCJTC location opened up right here in the 49th district in January thanks to funding from the biennial budget.

Having a local training center means easier access to training, which means more police officers in Washington who can fill the gaps we're seeing in local law enforcement staffing across the state. I am proud to report that this first class of graduating cadets is the most diverse in the state, which means that our peace officers will more closely reflect the community where they work.