



Representative  
**Jesse Johnson**

# 2020 LEGISLATIVE REPORT

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 30

Dear Friends,

This was my first legislative session and it was an amazing experience with important work accomplished. Looming large was the COVID-19 pandemic that is hurting communities across our state, impacting our ability to work, go to school, attend social events, and even our access to health care. But I remain hopeful because of the amazing community we have. I want to personally thank our first responders, medical professionals, health care workers and law enforcement officers at the front lines of this pandemic.

Inside you'll find an overview of the state budget, which includes the Legislature's response to COVID-19, as well as an update on bills I championed and passed ranging from improving educational outcomes to funding local community projects.

As we continue to navigate this crisis, I remain committed to keep fighting for the opportunity for every individual and family to not just survive, but thrive in a healthy, vibrant community. It is my honor to serve you as YOUR Representative in Olympia.

Sincerely,

Rep. Jesse Johnson • 30th Legislative District



## COMMUNITY FOCUS

### COVID-19 RESPONSE & RESOURCES & BUDGET INVESTMENTS

In response, lawmakers passed a bipartisan House bill to transfer \$200 million from the state's Budget Stabilization Account, also known as the Rainy Day Fund, specifically to help fund state and local public health efforts to combat COVID-19, assist businesses affected, and provide relief to individuals unemployed due to the pandemic.

We know many are struggling right now and I want to encourage you to reach out to my office if you have specific questions or need help accessing resources. You can reach me at [Jesse.Johnson@leg.wa.gov](mailto:Jesse.Johnson@leg.wa.gov). You can also find links to various resources, including small business assistance, unemployment assistance, health care access, updates, and more at <https://coronavirus.wa.gov/>.

Due to the COVID-19 crisis, our budget has changed dramatically from what was first proposed earlier this year. The Legislature made

some changes, while the governor vetoed some areas to reduce projected spending. We still made critical investments needed for public health, and emerging needs that put people first.:

- \$160 million into immediate housing needs for working families and seniors
- \$140 million to increase childcare for working families, strengthen the foster care system, and expand early learning programs
- An increase in Medicaid primary care rates and nursing home rates, support for rural health clinics, and increased funding for foundational public health

There remains a reserve of \$3 billion to help absorb any future costs or lack of tax revenue due to economic impacts.

### Budget Investments for our Communities

The Governor understandably had to veto over \$400 million in our budget due to COVID-19. Locally, I worked hard to help bring new programs and projects to our area. Thankfully, funding in our community was not part of the Governor's budget cuts. I am especially proud of the following Operating Budget items that were approved despite the late budget changes:

- \$250,000 for an after-school and summer learning program in Federal Way
- \$175,000 for Economic Development projects in Federal Way
- \$750,000 for an Emergency Response Vessel for South King Fire and Rescue
- Secured funding to develop curriculum on African-American History and provide school staff cultural literacy training



In the Capital Budget, which invests in construction projects and local community needs, I worked hard to help get the following items included this year:

- \$350,000 to help repair the Redondo Fishing Pier
- \$50,000 for improvements to the Federal Way Little League Fields
- \$103,000 to add 27 new Federal Way Safe City Cameras in targeted areas
- \$62,000 for Fusion family housing support project
- \$100,000 for young adult drop-in shelter in Auburn
- \$50,000 for the Algona Wetland Preserve and Trail

# NEW LAWS SERVING YOU

## My priority legislation

As an Educator, I see everyday the impact that policies have on students and families. That is why I worked hard to ensure that opportunity, affordability and access for ALL is at the center of every piece of legislation. I believe that a healthy community begins with a healthy education system, local economy and environment. From increasing education and career pathway opportunities for youth, to expanding outreach to local programs and resources for families, to bringing down the cost of housing and healthcare - I am dedicated to putting people first.

Of the bills I wrote, four passed into law that address youth, educational outcomes, and families.

**House Bill 2711** looks to address problems facing students who experience homelessness or are in the foster system. The new law tasks an existing work group to examine and provide recommendations for how



to improve outcomes for students lower than average passing rates in Math and English literacy and higher truancy rates.

**House Bill 2811** helps develop a high school curriculum on global and local environment, real-world environmental science, and opportunities for careers in renewable natural resources.

**House Bill 2873** allows families and youth to request Family Reconciliation Services (FRS), a tool used by the Department of Children, Youth, and Families to provide local, culturally relevant, trauma-informed services for families or children who are struggling with conflict. Ser-

vices include mental health, conflict resolution and family counseling.

**House Bill 2905** expands the Access to Baby and Childhood Dentistry (ABCD) program, a proven and cost effective way to provide dental care to children, by supporting local ABCD providers and increasing outreach to children in low-income families.

## Representative Jesse Johnson

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## 2020 Legislative Report

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### COMMITTEES:

- Consumer Protection & Business
- Housing, Community Development & Veterans

## Keeping our Communities Healthy

**HB 1847** – Updates state law to ensure federal law changes to improve noise abatement mitigation zone near the airport.

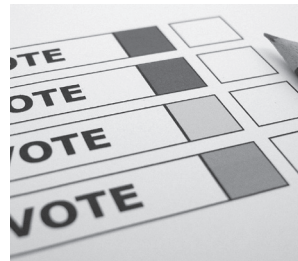
**HB 2315** – Expanding a program for the Port of Seattle to improve or replace existing noise abatement mitigation equipment for private property owners near the airport.

**HB 2441** – Access to food and resources can make the difference when you're facing homelessness and malnutrition. This bill rolls back recession-era cuts to the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program to help families who are one paycheck away from homelessness.

**HB 2662** – For many, the skyrocketing cost of insulin is causing them to make hard decisions: pay for medication or pay for food, or rent, or other needs? This new law will cap the cost of insulin at \$100 per month so families won't need to make that choice again.



## Protecting the Rights and Future for All



**HB 1390** – A cost of living increase to certain retirees of the public employees' retirement system plan 1 and the teachers' system plan 1, such as former teachers, corrections workers, cafeteria workers, and park maintenance staff.

**SB 6313** – Requiring automatic voter registration for 16- and 17-year old drivers when receiving an enhanced driver's license, allowing 17-year-old voters to vote in a primary election as long as they are 18 years old by the time of the general election.

**HB 1783** – Creating the nation's first statewide Office of Equity to help reduce historical and current systemic disparities in our public institutions and systems.

**HB 2527** – Creating the Washington State Census Bill of Rights, to make sure everyone has the right to get counted in the census without fear of harm or fraud—no matter where they come from.