

2024 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

30th Legislative District



State Representative
JAMILA TAYLOR

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COMMITTEES

Civil Rights & Judiciary
Chair

Housing

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Early Learning



Dear friends and neighbors,

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

In a short session it can be tough to pass big, complex bills because of the tight schedule, but this year we were able to pass new legislation addressing key issues like gun control, the fentanyl/opioid crisis, and education.

This was also my first year chairing the Civil Rights and Judiciary committee. I'm proud of the work we did to advance priorities like survivor rights, civil rights, and support our family law system. We successfully passed many of those bills through both chambers. There were a few disappointments, like the Keep Our Care Act failing to make it out of the House, but sometimes big bills take time. We'll be ready to try again in 2025.

I appreciate everyone who took the time this session to reach out to me by phone or email, attend a town hall, or stop by for a visit in Olympia. Your advocacy is important. Ideas for new bills often come from folks in the district who have taken the time to share a story that shows where a system needs to be changed or updated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jamila Taylor".

Jamila Taylor



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CIVIL RIGHTS AND JUDICIARY

Chairing a committee can mean having to make tough decisions about what bills will get heard and what has to wait until next session because there isn't enough time. Here's a recap of what was heard in the Civil Rights and Judiciary Committee, what made it to the governor's desk, and what bills will be coming back next session.

Family Law and Public Defense

A bill banning child marriages (**HB 1455**) passed the house on the first day of session this year and made it to the governor's desk with bipartisan support, eliminating a practice that put young people in potentially dangerous situations with no legal recourse.



Two bills I sponsored fall into the family law bucket. The House and Senate passed **HB 1652** and sent it to the governor with bipartisan support, making sure families receiving child support and state benefits such as TANF aren't paying \$50 or \$100 per month to the state.

The other bill I sponsored, **HB 2237** would have clarified the process for judicial officers when crafting a parenting plan and improves outcomes for domestic violence survivors and their children by allowing judges to follow the law and serve the best interest of children involved instead of having to choose one option or the other. This bill passed out of CRJ but did not make it to the House floor. I'll be finetuning this bill over the interim.

Across the state we are struggling to meet the demands placed on our judicial system. This includes a shortage of public defenders, judges, and other judicial staff. This session we passed several House and Senate bills that address key shortages and will make the system work better for the people of Washington.

I sponsored **HB 1911** to create more flexible staffing options in the Public Defender's Office to help make it easier for people to get connected with representation. Clark and Whatcom counties will gain a superior court judge (**SB 5836** and **HB 1992**), and **SB 5870** will help train more public defenders and create employment opportunities in underserved areas.

Gun Control, Survivor Rights, and Hate Crimes

Gun violence rips loved ones from their families and devastates our communities. This year we passed more legislation to keep Washingtonians safe, including **HB 1903** that requires firearm theft to be reported within 24 hours of discovery, **HB 2021** that gives Washington State Patrol the authority to destroy firearms confiscated from a crime scene, and **HB 2118** that strengthens regulations around gun and ammunition inventory storage for firearms dealers.

We also passed two bills that support sexual abuse survivors. **HB 1618** lifts the statute of limitations on reporting childhood sexual abuse, empowering survivors on their path of recovery, and giving them tools to hold predators accountable.

Stealthling is a predatory act that now has consequences, thanks to **HB 1958** that bans sexual partners from removing protective devices such as a condom without consent.

The number of hate crimes has risen in Washington in recent years, and **SB 5427** supports people who have been targeted or affected by hate crimes by establishing a reporting hotline and tracking hate crimes and bias incidents.

Behavioral health and Healthcare

The fentanyl and opioid epidemic is leaving a devastating wake through our communities with tribal members in WA four times more likely to overdose and die from opioids than the state average. Because of **HB 1877**, Tribal, state, and local governments will work together to forge a path towards recovery that includes delivering care in a way that aligns with the culturally unique approaches and practices of Washington tribes.

One bill that we worked hard on this year but didn't make it out of the House was the Keep Our Care Act (**SB 5241**). This bill would have strengthened oversight and transparency of hospital mergers to ensure health systems are held accountable and prioritize community needs, not a religious directive or financial bottom line. While it didn't pass the House this time around, we'll be bringing it back next session to protect affordable health care access for all Washingtonians.

SESSION HIGHLIGHT

Thank you to 30th LD resident Betty Taylor from the Alliance for Gun Responsibility for testifying on one of this year's firearm regulation bills this year in Olympia. Your involvement and advocacy is important!



DISTRICT PROJECTS

This year's supplemental budget package includes huge investments in areas to help Washington meet our toughest challenges. The capital budget includes \$668 million in Climate Commitment Act funding, allowing us to invest a total of \$1.3 billion in construction projects and infrastructure across Washington, including:

- \$79 million in new funding for school construction
- \$90 million for energy efficiency and decarbonization efforts at public colleges and universities
- \$82.7 million in behavioral health community capacity grants to expand coverage and treatment
- \$127.5 million to build on affordable housing investments made in 2023
- \$90 million for energy efficiency and decarbonization efforts at public colleges and universities

The operating budget invests heavily in areas like behavioral health, fentanyl and opioid response, health care, education, homelessness and housing, and clean energy and climate programs, and includes more than \$300 million in CCA funding. Here's some of the highlights:

- \$245 million in behavioral health, including increasing capacity, and diversion and outpatient care
- \$215 for fentanyl and opioid response, including more access to treatment, programs, and supplies, and increasing public awareness, outreach and prevention for students and Tribes
- \$355 million for K-12 education including a special education cap increase and more funding for prototypical student staff like paraeducators
- \$230 million for homelessness and housing, including housing vulnerable populations



What does this mean for our district? Here's a few of the local projects I sponsored that were funded:

- \$309K for EV Chargers at the Federal Way Community Center
- \$77K for the South King County Public Market project planning phase
- \$600K for the Algona Wetland Preserve Interpretive Trail to reduce flooding
- \$750K for El Centro De La Raza to help pay off their land acquisition loan
- \$100K for the African Community Housing Development for wraparound social services and to expand and maintain existing education and family engagement programs
- \$1 million for the Retail Theft Taskforce to address retail theft and crime
- \$750K for the Equitable Recovery and Reconciliation Alliance to provide culturally relevant support to small businesses in South King County

UPDATE ON THE COVENANT HOMEOWNERSHIP ACT

Generations of explicitly systemic, racist, and discriminatory policies and practices have prevented homeownership for Black, Indigenous, Asian, and other historically marginalized communities in Washington state. In 2023 the legislature passed the Covenant Homeownership Act (HB 1474) to recognize and address through legislation the inequities of racially discriminatory government practices. The bill did two things: commissioned a study to identify groups of people that were targeted by these policies and established an account to help with downpayment and closing costs for qualifying individuals.

The National Fair Housing Alliance was chosen through a competitive process to lead the study, and the results are due to the legislature this month with program participants to begin receiving assistance by July 1 of this year. Visit wshfc.org/covenant to learn more and to find out if you or someone you know may qualify for this program.

GIRL SCOUTS

Girl Scouts is a special organization with a history of promoting comradery and encouraging self-confidence. My own experience as a Girl Scout taught me to dream bigger and believe I had the power to create my own opportunities.

I had so much fun visiting with the Girl Scouts of Western Washington this session and honoring the commitment of them and thousands of other girls with **House Resolution 4683**.



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