



DAN BRONOSKE & MARI LEAVITT



REPRESENTATIVES 28TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

Friends and neighbors,

This session, we worked hard to protect and support our small businesses, our families, and our students. Here are highlights from those efforts.

B&O small business tax credits – Many small businesses have not returned to their normal level of operations since the pandemic. Senate Bill 5980 helps by increasing the amount small businesses can deduct for state Business & Occupation taxes and increases the filing threshold. This means many small businesses will not have to file B&O taxes at all.

Economic development – The 2022 Supplemental Operating Budget made smart, strategic investments in small businesses through state loans, grants, fee decreases, and tax credits:

- \$100 million for hospitality businesses.
- \$25 million to expand small business assistance for arts, heritage, and cultural organizations.
- \$12 million for motion picture assistance.
- \$39 million for a small business innovation and competitiveness fund.
- \$75 million in funding for small business disaster response, innovation, and resiliency.

\$35 per month for insulin – In 2020, we limited the cost of insulin to \$100 per month. This year, Senate Bill 5546 caps insulin at \$35 per month through 2023, allowing our community members to afford much needed medicine.

Cost of living increase for PERS/TRS 1 – Unlike other retirement plans, Public Employees and Teachers do not automatically receive cost of living adjustments. Senate Bill 5676 provides a 3 percent adjustment capped at \$110 per month.

Language access in public schools – Students and families who need interpretation deserve the same opportunities as their peers in a language they can understand. House Bill 1153 establishes a language access program to better serve every Washington family and value the voice of each student.

Budget investments in K-12 education – Children deserve schools that are safe, open, and ready to teach. This year's budget funds:

- \$388 million to stabilize enrollment, transportation, and learning assistance programs.
- \$91 million for additional school counselors, nurses, psychologists, and social workers.
- \$236 million to adjust for inflation with upcoming costs and salary increases.
- An additional \$44 million for school nutrition.
- \$10 million to expand outdoor school.

Housing – The new construction budget includes \$439 million for housing, including \$300 million for rapid capital acquisition of housing and \$15 million for homeless youth projects.

We look forward to continuing to advocate for our community. If you have questions about the session or need help accessing services, please reach out to our offices. It is an honor to work for you and our beautiful district.

Sincerely,

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REPRESENTATIVE DAN BRONOSKE

BUILDING PROGRESS AND HOPE

The new state construction budget makes significant investments in housing, economic development, early learning, and critical infrastructure.

Extreme weather resiliency – The record-high temperatures we experienced during last summer’s “heat-dome” weren’t just inconvenient and miserable, some of our vulnerable family and community members were hospitalized or died because they had no relief from the heat.

We have budgeted \$80 million for weatherization of housing for low-income families and \$5 million for Weatherization Plus Health, which is tied to helping our seniors cope with the next extreme heat event. Preparing for this will help protect more of our elderly from heat illnesses and emergency room visits.

Other local investments that we secured include:

- \$464,000 for the Habitat for Humanity, Boat Street affordable housing project in Tillicum
- \$400,000 for environmental and ecological remediation Old Fort Lake in DuPont
- \$350,000 to design the Titlow Park, over the railroad bridge, to be replaced in Tacoma
- \$15.66 million for asbestos abatement of the Pierce College Olympic South building.
- \$200,000 for Western Pond Turtle habitat, which are a vulnerable native species
- \$250,000 for a Children’s Therapy Center which will provide support for families across Pierce County
- \$50,000 for electric vehicle charging stations in Steilacoom



MOVE AHEAD WASHINGTON

The state’s new transportation package makes unprecedented investments in the maintenance and preservation of our existing infrastructure, expands accessible transportation options, and will create living wage jobs for members of our community who will get to work on projects across the state.

The legislature also transferred money from the operating budget to pay down the debt service on the Tacoma Narrows Bridge. This is intended to reduce the toll by 75¢ until the loan on the bridge is paid off in approximately 10 years. I was the sponsor of the House companion to the bill that made this possible.

Local transportation projects that we advocated for received funding, including:

- \$75 million for the I-5 Nisqually Delta project, which will prevent catastrophic flooding over I-5
- \$1.62 million for Safe Routes for Schools in University Place
- \$1.06 million for the Pierce County ferry docks at Steilacoom and Anderson Island
- \$244 million for the I-5 JBLM HOV lane improvements
- \$10 million to expand high-capacity bus rapid transit

An operating budget that puts people first

We fought for local funding in the operating budget, including:

- \$250,000 for the Marine Trade Skills Center, a partnership with local high schools that will help fill a worker shortage while giving our students paths to a great career in the maritime industry.
- Funding to research continuum of care for patients released from state hospitals. We need to understand where services are located across the state, so that there are adequate resources available in their home communities where families and other support networks are.

School seismic safety grants – Many of our public schools would not survive an earthquake, leaving our students and educators vulnerable. To protect our students, teachers, and staff, we invested \$100 million in State Construction Budget grants (Senate Bill 5933) to strengthen the schools most at risk during an earthquake.

Safer interactions between law enforcement and the public, for both officers and community members – The legislature needed to provide clarity to police agencies that they should have the ability to deploy and use less-lethal alternatives when doing their public safety work. I sponsored House Bill 1719 to permit tools such as beanbag rounds and foam projectiles. This policy had broad consensus and passed through the House and Senate unanimously.

REPRESENTATIVE MARI LEAVITT

This session, I wanted to prioritize military and veteran families, small business recovery, workforce development, and economic and housing assistance, including securing funds for survivors of human trafficking. I'm proud to have advocated for and secured significant capital dollars in housing infrastructure and partnership with local and non-profit partners in addition to housing assistance dollars in addition to supporting additional access to landlord mitigations programs through a bill I introduced and passed in HB1593.

VETERANS AND THE MILITARY

National Guard education grants – Our National Guard members answered the call to serve, and they deserve their full benefits. I introduced House Bill 1642 so students will not receive smaller grants after receiving other financial aid. This bill also expands the program to include education beyond a traditional bachelor's degree.

Veteran and military suicide prevention – Military service members, veterans, and their families are 52 percent more likely to take their lives than civilians. House Bill 1181 strengthens programs to prevent suicide among veterans and military members by encouraging health care providers to ask patients more questions, extending the Suicide-Safe Homes Task Force, creating a suicide prevention community-based services grant program to engage isolated veterans, and enabling the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide an online database to serve members and veterans with mental health and suicide prevention resources.

National Guard Retirement Age – Currently, members of the State Guard may only serve up to age 64. I supported Senator Lovick's House Bill 1122 to remove this age limit, give the Adjutant General in charge of the State Guard the authority to set the limit, and allow extensions of service in two year-increments.

Helping military spouses find work – Military spouses with professional licenses often have trouble updating their licenses when they move to a new state. I sponsored House Bill 1043 to let Washington join an interstate audiology and speech-language pathology compact. This bill will let practitioners from other compact states transfer their license to Washington. Though it did not pass, I will be bringing it back this session as it passed out of the House Committee unanimously. House Bill 1286, which did pass, lets Washington join a similar compact for telepsychology as well as one from the Senate on occupational therapy and I was proud to support both these bills.

COLLEGE & WORKFORCE TRAINING

Preventing hazing in higher education – Hazing is a huge problem, and no family should suffer the traumatic and preventable loss of a child. I developed House Bill 1751 to establish reporting requirements and prevention and education programs to reduce hazing on our campuses

State student loan program – Students should not be saddled with ridiculously high-interest loans. While the state cannot cancel federal student loan debt, House Bill 1736 makes college more affordable and avoids the crushing, high-interest debt that puts things like home ownership out of reach.

Nurse educator loan repayment program – Our Nurses have been on the frontlines protecting our communities. That is why I was happy to support House Bill 2007, which establishes a Nurse Educator Loan Repayment Program to address the nursing shortage and train the 6,000 additional nurses Washington needs.

More opportunity – Our nation-leading financial aid programs only work if people can access them. Washington ranks 49th in FAFSA completion, indicating a barrier to degrees, credentials, and apprenticeships. New outreach efforts for FAFSA completion will help students get the financial aid they need so they can join our workforce.

Budget investments in higher education – We invested significantly in expanding our apprenticeship programs as well as address strengthening our career and technical education programs. In addition, growing our public and private workforce and expanding apprenticeship programs are crucial to growing our economy, creating family wage jobs, and bringing economic stability to every Washingtonian.

- \$150 million to create the Washington Student Loan program.
- \$34 million for the Washington College Grant expansion and bridge grants.
- \$6 million for financial aid outreach.
- An additional \$46 million for healthcare workforce and training.
- A \$37 million increase for nurse education opportunities and tuition assistance.
- \$3m for housing assistance and other essential needs for community and technical college students who are homeless or in foster care.

Addressing school district employee shortage – House Bill 1699 increases the cap on retiree employment in schools to 1,040 hours until July 1, 2025. This will address school staff shortages in the wake of COVID-19 and help our retirees bring in additional income.

In addition to all these important bills and investments, I am glad to say that Sen. Manka Dhingra and I were able to secure \$3 million in the operating budget to help survivors of human trafficking. Funds will go towards housing assistance for victims of human trafficking through service providers already vetted by the office of crime victim's advocacy.

STATE REPRESENTATIVES

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2022 Legislative Report



HEALTH CARE AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Protecting consumers from out-of-network health care charges

– Balanced billing was addressed at the state and federal level, but some care is excluded. HB 1688 acknowledges that mental health needs can be emergencies too and protects those visits from surprise billing.

Behavioral health funding – Whether it is a mental health crisis or the pain of substance use disorder, families deserve to know that a loved one can get help if it's needed. Continuing to invest in behavioral health is important and the budget includes:

- \$51 million for rate increases for mental health and substance use disorder providers.
- \$100 million for behavioral health providers that were impacted by COVID.
- \$24 million to fund housing and employment for individuals struggling with behavioral health issues.
- \$23 million to expand opioid response programs and supports.
- \$35 million to fund crisis, outreach, and diversion programs.

Housing and homelessness funding

We can have a Washington where there aren't people in crisis in the streets and people can have the peace of mind knowing treatment and care is available for those that need it. This year's supplemental budget:

- \$160 million to increase utility assistance for broadband, energy, water, garbage, and recycling.
- \$45 million for additional rental assistance.
- \$55 million for homeless provider stipends.
- \$27 million for landlord mitigation.
- \$45 million for services for individuals living in public areas.
- \$500 million transfer to Capital Budget for housing needs.

