HB 1893: Emergency Medical Technicians/ Public Health

Emergency medical technicians (EMTs) have played a critical role in the response to the pandemic. For EMTs to continue administering vaccines and conducting testing outside of a declared state of emergency, I introduced HB 1893. HB 1893 modifies the definition of "emergency medical technician" to allow EMTs to provide collaborative medical care. This means that there is already a structure in place in the event a localized outbreak or other public health issue should arise which will streamline the delivery of needed services, while filling a major gap in rural and other communities with limited access to healthcare options.

It also creates a provisional emergency services provider certification and establishes eligibility criteria and certain corresponding restrictions on employment.

Thoughts on the 2022 Legislative Session

This session, we saw the passage of some great legislation, including a transportation package that makes real investments in public transportation, pedestrian and bike ways, and a focus on meeting our previous project commitments as well as the care and preservation of the existing transportation infrastructure.

The Work Ahead

Over the interim, I’m continuing to work on collaborative solutions designed to increase resiliency in our government, infrastructure and communities, to ensure that all Washingtonians have access to the resources that we may need to not only survive, but truly thrive. This means continuing the work to bring more living wage jobs to the 44th LD and Snohomish County, additional support for existing small businesses, and various tools to incentivize the creation of new businesses and innovation. It also means working to address the current housing crisis by crafting long-term, balanced and creative solutions.

Most importantly though, this means listening to and learning from the people who know our unique county and district best, those of us who live here.
The 2022 session was short, but impactful.

Justice in Snohomish County
I am excited to report that several weeks ago, Governor Inslee signed a bill that I sponsored to add two new judges to Snohomish County Superior Court. Senate bill 5575 will bring some welcome relief and increase access to justice. Snohomish county is the second fastest growing county in Washington. There are 15 Superior Court judges and more than 820,000 residents, a ratio of 115:000. King and Pierce County have a ratio of one judge for every 39,000 resi-
dents. This long overdue change was needed. Great thanks to my colleagues in the House and Senate for their support of this significant legislation. As Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. wrote in his letter from the Birmingham jail, “justice too long delayed is justice denied.”

Retaining Experienced State Guard Personnel
When 2021 started, I was serving in the House of Representatives. I was appointed to the Senate in December. I had legislation in the House that had already started—change in our communities that had already begun. This year we passed HB 1122 which extends the retirement age of our State Guard ensuring that when disaster strikes, which it has and it will, we are prepared to respond with the most seasoned veterans in our communities. I was Snohomish County Executive when the Oso Mudslide occurred. I remember greeting President Barack Obama alongside our brave service members who quickly responded to assist with rescue, recovery and clean up. As we prepare to move forward from this pandemic, we must also prepare to respond to the next disaster—wherever that may be. Having strong and experi-
enced leadership is the helm helps us do that.

This year’s supplemental operating budget invests in working families first.
This year the legislature put together a budget that isn’t balanced on the back of the worker.
$350 million will strengthen our state’s groundbreaking paid family leave program to help families spend more precious time together.
$345 million to stabilize school districts that experienced enrollment declines because of the pandemic.
$90 million to add nurses and counselors to schools to help us bet-
ter meet the physical and socio-emotional needs of students.
$100 million toward aggressively addressing workforce shortag-
es and improving access to behavioral health services amongst our laborers.
$58 million for the Farmers-to-Families Food Box Program to get fresh, healthy food to food banks across the state.

Transportation
Whether you’re heading to a place of work or play, everyone
deserves safe roads. For this reason, I am proud to report that the legislature has passed a GREAT piece of transportation legislation dubbed the ‘Move Ahead Washington’ package that will have a real impact on our working families. Here’s an aerial view of some of the projects we’re funding:

US 2 Trestle Capacity Improvements to help fortify one of our busiest arterial corridors and to finish the existing expansion. This will reduce traffic that many of us hit heading to and from work.
16th Street NE Centennial Trail Connector to give Washin-

The Work Ahead
This interim, I’m excited to work on:
• Expanding the Working Families Tax Credit
• Time Family Reading Program
• B&O Tax Reform
• Increasing Educational Access and Student Success
• Creating a “Shovel Ready” Site Certification Program for rural communities

My motto of the 2022 session was “Jobs. Jobs. Jobs.”
HB 1846 will allow for job creation by incentivizing
data centers to locate in rural counties. It will also create a pilot program for data centers in counties with populations over 800,000. This bill was about data center creation being done the right way. I engaged in extensive stakehold-

HB 1833 removes student access barriers to free and reduced-price
meals and provides parents and guardians with a voluntary, secure, and convenient multilingual online portal for providing household information that is required for a school’s participation in the national

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE FROM REP. BRANDY DONAGHY

HB 2033: Emergency and Work Zones
I believe that we have a responsibility to do what we can to help keep firefighters safe, so it is an honor to sponsor legislation that protects the first responders who risk their lives to protect us. HB 2033 allows firetrucks to operate rear-facing blue lights while stationary when responding to an emergency, which will provide greater visibility to better alert drivers that first responders are work-
ing ahead.
This bill also requires drivers to reduce their speed on high-speed highways to 50 miles per hour or less if they are unable to move over when approaching emergency or work zones.
I’m proud that HB 2033 is my first bill passed as your state legislator.