

REPRESENTATIVE **JOE TIMMONS** 42ND LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

Dear friends and neighbors,

Today I'm sharing a quick snapshot of my highlights from the 2023 Legislative Session that wrapped up earlier this spring in Olympia. As a first-year legislator, I am proud of the work my colleagues and I accomplished, as we worked together to pass bipartisan legislation that will impact the lives of Washingtonians in Whatcom County and around the state.

Unless otherwise noted, all legislation below becomes effective on July 23, 2023.

STATE EMERGENCY MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS

The devastating floods that ripped through Whatcom County in late 2021 prompted me to introduce House Bill 1452, which became law effective May 1. A state emergency medical reserve corps will be a group of volunteers—doctors, veterinarians, mental health counselors, and others—who will be trained by the state's Department of Health and activated across the state to assist during times of public health crisis and natural disasters.

EDUCATION

As someone who has worked in education during much of life, I'm thrilled that two bills I sponsored pertaining to education will become law before the start of the next school year. House Bill 1536 will make it easier for students to receive their diploma when they meet all criteria to graduate but owe small amounts of debt to the school (under \$1K); House Bill 1823 will create access to graduate studies through a state-run low-interest student loan program. HB 1823 prioritizes fields of study that are in high demand and address workforce shortages in areas such as healthcare, education, law enforcement, and public safety.

SALES TAX EXEMPTION FOR SENIORS

The cost of living is rising, and those on fixed incomes are feeling the effects, including seniors. I introduced House Bill 1431 to help give seniors peace of mind and the ability to age with dignity and comfort by providing a sales tax exemption on prepared meals for residents of senior living communities.

WATER RIGHTS

House Bill 1792 concerns water rights in Whatcom County. This bill will provide clarity and transparency for people filing water rights claims as part of the adjudication process in the Nooksack River basin.

It is a tremendous honor to serve you in the 42nd Legislative District. Please visit my website, follow me on Facebook, and reach out to my office if you would like to hear more about the work I've done in Olympia this session.

Thank you,





REPRESENTATIVE
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