



2018 LEGISLATIVE SESSION REPORT

Sen. Patty Kuderer

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KEY POLICIES PASSED IN 2018

Equal Pay

We required equal pay for equal work to close the wage gap between women and men who do the same work with the same experience.

Reproductive Health

We passed the Reproductive Health Equity Act to make sure women have the option of making health care choices that are best for them and their families. We also passed legislation to require doctors to inform and assist patients who have high breast density, to better detect early signs of breast cancer.

Health Care

We strengthened health care coverage for all Washingtonians, addressing health care needs such as disease screening and contraception access in the event the Trump administration continues to undermine the Affordable Care Act.

Criminal Justice Reform

We dramatically changed our system of legal financial obligations imposed on people convicted of crimes. The elimination of interest on most of these obligations and other reforms will help offenders more smoothly and successfully re-enter society after they have served their sentence.

Access To Democracy

We expanded voter access to democracy on several fronts. We passed the DISCLOSE Act to expose hidden money in elections and the Washington Voting Rights Act to provide representation to disenfranchised voters. We also approved automatic voter registration and pre-registration for 16-17 year olds.

Net Neutrality

We passed a first-in-the nation net neutrality law to prevent internet service providers from slowing or reducing internet service to Washington households based on content.

Student Loan Bill of Rights

We protected college students from fraudulent and predatory practices by lenders that saddle students with spiraling debt by passing the Student Loan Bill of Rights.

Ending Unfair Credit Fees

We protected Washingtonians from unfair fees charged by financial institutions to freeze and unfreeze credit accounts when information is breached as in the notorious Equifax case.

Ban on Conversion Therapy

We banned conversion therapy, the abusive practice of applying physical and mental discomfort to try to force LGBTQ minors to change their gender identity or sexual orientation.

Breakfast After the Bell

We made sure kids will be able to concentrate on their classes instead of grumbling stomachs each morning by passing the Breakfast After the Bell program, which is proven to raise academic successes.

DREAM Act 2.0

We passed the DREAM Act 2.0 to expand access to higher education for students who are DACA recipients.

Net Pen Fish Farms

We phased out Atlantic salmon net pen farms that threaten the health of our water and native finfish populations.

Protecting Privacy

We fought to limit the disclosure of people's religious affiliations to protect them from federal authorities who would use the information to arrest or apprehend law-abiding Washingtonians.

Property Taxes

We passed a statewide property tax cut to relieve some of the pressure from last year's education funding bill. For 2019 only, property taxes will be lowered by \$0.31 per \$1,000 of assessed value.

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Committees:

- Health & Long Term Care (Vice Chair)
- State Government, Tribal Relations & Elections (Vice Chair)
- Financial Institutions & Insurance
- Labor & Commerce



Dear friends and neighbors,

When Democrats won the Senate Majority last November, my legislative colleagues and I immediately felt what Martin Luther King Jr. once called the "fierce urgency of now." Hoping to embrace it, the Senate Democratic Caucus laid out an inspiring agenda to get our state back on track and moving forward.

I am proud to report that in just a short 60-day session, we were able to achieve a staggering number of progressive victories - the majority with bipartisan support - ranging from fully funding education and protecting women's healthcare, to gun safety measures and net neutrality.

Our first order of business was to finish a few items remaining from the 2017 session. The top priority was to pass the capital construction budget, which included Washington's largest-ever investment into school construction. Here in the 48th district, the 2017 capital budget, along with our 2018 allocations, will fund the following projects for our communities:

- \$1.5 million for Highland Village Preservation
- \$1.5 million to replace the Pacific Northwest Ballet School at the Francia Russell Center
- \$500,000 to modernize the Kirkland Performance Center
- \$200,000 to aid the Boys & Girls Club's acquisition of the Lake Hills Clubhouse

In the 2018 supplemental operating budget, we also addressed critical needs facing our state. We invested in education, mental health, and jobs as well as completing the final piece of funding to satisfy the McCleary decision, the state's constitutional obligation to amply fund K-12 education. We did this all while cutting property taxes and maintaining a \$2.4 billion reserve, the largest in state history.

For my part, I was the prime sponsor of six bills that reached the Governor's desk this year. Please read the inside pages to learn about those bills.

I am deeply grateful for the impressive work of the many groups and individuals who helped make each of these bills a reality. I am even more grateful to know these policies are part of a much longer list of key legislation to pass this year, including those below!

However, we had hoped to get much more done this year, including stricter regulation of assault rifles and providing car tab relief. I am committed to working on these issues and many others over the interim to give us the best chance at passage next session.

Best regards,

It is truly an honor to serve as your Senator and my door is always open. If you have any questions about this session or any topic, please feel free reach me by email at Patty.Kuderer@leg.wa.gov or by phone at 360-786-7694.



SB 6021:
Extending the period for voter registration.

In the 2017 general election, voter turnout in Washington hit a record low as only 37 percent of voters cast their ballot. Voter apathy is a disturbing trend nationwide, fueled in part by some state laws that restrict voting rights. Here in Washington, however, we are leading the way to expand access to voting. This year, the Legislature passed a number of elections reforms designed to spur turnout by reducing barriers. This included same-day voter registration that could increase voter turnout by up to 10 percent. SB 6021 will ensure that every eligible voter in Washington State can register and vote in person on Election Day. You'll also be able to register electronically or by mail up to eight days before Election Day.



SB 6160:
Revising conditions under which a person is subject to exclusive adult jurisdiction and extending juvenile court jurisdiction over serious cases to age twenty-five.

Current Washington law automatically certifies as adults 16-17 year olds who commit certain crimes, without any consideration of brain development, criminal history, or other potentially mitigating circumstances. Once in the adult criminal justice system, young offenders are more likely to become career criminals and have a 1 in 3 chance of going back to prison. SB 6160 reforms these laws primarily by extending juvenile court jurisdiction to age 25, giving these young people a real shot at rehabilitation. This bill is the collaborative effort of prosecutors, criminal defense attorneys, probation officers, advocates for youth and many others working together to achieve the goal of affording youth a real opportunity for rehabilitation to reduce recidivism and racial disparities in our criminal justice system.

SB 5912:
Concerning insurance coverage of tomosynthesis or three-dimensional mammography.

About one-in-eight women in the U.S. can expect to develop breast cancer in their lifetime. If detected at an early stage, specifically when the cancer is still localized, survival rates reach an incredible 99 percent. Unfortunately, only 61 percent of breast cancer cases are detected at this stage. SB 5912 will ensure that 3D mammography, which has shown a 40 percent increase in detection for invasive breast cancers, will be included in insurance preventative care mandates for mammography.



SB 5746:
Concerning the Association of WA Generals.

Overseen by the Office of the Lt. Governor, the Association of Washington Generals (AWG) was founded in 1970 to bring together outstanding Washingtonians to serve our state as ambassadors of trade, tourism, and goodwill. SB 5746 expands the AWG to administer the Washington World Fellows Program, which connects disadvantaged and disabled high school students to fully funded study abroad programs. It will also divert 25-percent of funds brought in from the Seahawks and Mariners license plates to fund the fellows program and sports mentoring programs.



SB 6027:
Concerning the discovery of privileged health care information and communications in claims for noneconomic damages under certain civil rights laws.

Unfortunately, in civil rights cases concerning discrimination, especially sexual harassment cases, it has become an all too common tactic to force a plaintiff to reveal her private medical history to dissuade her from trying to hold her harasser accountable. SB 6027 simply narrows the conditions under which the defendant can obtain a victim's healthcare information, creating a fairer system for all parties.



SB 6231:
Concerning the statute of limitation for unfair labor practice complaints filed in superior court.

In a 2017 decision, the Washington State Supreme Court held that the six-month statute of limitations for a Union's duty of fair representation does not apply for claims filed in Superior Courts. This created two different timeframes for filing an unfair labor practice complaint, depending on where the complaint is filed. SB 6231 simply aligns state law with federal law to ensure a consistent standard no matter where the duty of fair representation case is filed.

Also of interest, SB 6375:

Many of you have heard me speak of the need to create a State Bank, where our tax dollars stay in Washington, working for us. Last year I served as the Senate Democrats' representative on the Infrastructure and Public Depository Task Force. The work of the task force culminated in SB 6375, a bill I co-sponsored, to create a state bank modeled after the Federal Home Loan Bank. Eventually, the bill was incorporated as a proviso into the operating budget, and requires professional banking consultants to address the benefits and risks of proceeding with our own public depository and to develop a business plan to be presented to the Legislature for its consideration in the 2020 session.