



WAISN 2021 PRIMARY POLICY PLATFORM

Unemployment Insurance - no bill # yet - [Informational sheet](#)

Bill title:

Prime: Sen Saldaña

A temporary unemployment program for undocumented workers that mimics the support eligible Washington workers have received due to the pandemic will both support our most vulnerable communities and bolster the overall economic health of the state. This would be an initial step on the pathway to a permanent unemployment program that creates long-term equity for Washington's immigrant communities.

Health Equity for Immigrants - [HB1191](#) - [Health Access Survey two-pager](#)

Bill title: Ensuring equity in health coverage

Prime: Rep Thai

Individuals with health insurance coverage have better health outcomes than those who lack coverage. These individuals are more likely to be in poor health and more likely to delay seeking or go without needed health care services, which ultimately drives up the cost of care

Undocumented immigrants are systematically excluded from most health insurance programs that are offered in the state and the COVID pandemic has exacerbated existing inequities and demonstrates the urgent need for universal coverage.

Washington is home to more than one million immigrants who go to school, work, pay taxes, and contribute to our state's vibrant economy. yet are disproportionately uninsured and at risk for poor health outcomes.

The legislature therefore intends to improve the health of all people in this state by extending eligibility for apple health to all low-income adults, regardless of immigration status.

This bill intends to address these inequalities by extending certain health insurance programs to include undocumented immigrants.

Prohibiting Prisons from Profits - [HB1090](#) - [FAQs](#) - [Talking Points](#)

Bill title: Concerning private, for-profit detention facilities

Prime: Rep Self-Ortiz

Private for-profit prisons and detention centers should be banned in Washington state. They are a danger to public safety and violate the rights of people who are detained. Now, with the COVID-19 pandemic, private prisons and detention centers are even more dangerous.

The bill bans private, for-profit prisons and detention centers for adults in Washington State. It does not affect facilities such as work release, mental health services, or juvenile detention. The bill does not close down existing private for-profit prisons and detention centers right away -- but it keeps them from staying open after their current contract expires.

The Tacoma Northwest Detention Center, is a private immigration detention center owned and operated by The GEO Group. This is the only private prison, jail or detention center open in Washington right now. The current contract goes through 2025. This bill will prevent the contract renewal. In other words, this bill would cause NWDC to shut down by 2025.

Office of Civil Legal Aid bill - [HB1072](#) - [Talking points](#)

Bill title: Removing only one of the restrictions on the use of civil legal aid funds

Prime: Rep Lekanoff

To remove restriction on OCLA funding going to undocumented people. This prohibition is contrary to the state's commitment to protect its residents regardless of their immigration status and should be repealed. (CLS)

SECONDARY POLICY PLATFORM

1. **Working Families Tax Credit Recovery Rebate - [HB1297](#)**

Bill title: Concerning working families tax exemption.

Prime: Rep Thai

This bill would represent an annual tax rebate of \$350 to \$1,000 for low-income folks. New bill language only for I-TIN holders, would benefit undocumented workers.

2. **The Wage Recovery Act**

A remedy for low-wage workers who have been victims of wage theft. Would allow workers who have been victimized by wage theft to put a hold (a lien) on their employer's assets.

3. **The Worker Protection Act - [HB1076](#)**

Prime: Rep Hansen

Proposal would allow workers or their representatives to sue employers on behalf of the state for violations of workplace protections. The settlement would be shared by workers and Lnl.

4. **Expanded Dental Coverage for Pacific Islanders**

This proposal provides Medicaid-parity dental coverage for income-eligible Washington residents who are from COFA (Compact on Free Association) nations - Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of Palau. (ACRS)

5. **Dual language programs/classrooms bill**

Expand the number of dual language classrooms in early learning and K-12, Build heritage language supports for less commonly spoken languages, including reviving indigenous languages to honor language, culture and identity, Require community advisory boards, placing parents, youth and community members in a meaningful leadership role, Enact language access recommendations from the OSPI Taskforce to ensure parents and families have language access to support their students, Invest and expand dual and heritage language programming to close the opportunity gap facing English learners and students of color in early learning and K-12.

6. **Increased funding for the Limited English Proficient Pathways program (ACRS)**

Maintain funding for LEP Pathways to ensure job training, ESL classes, and social services for immigrants and refugees (\$2,366,000)

7. **Naturalization Services (ACRS)**

Maintain funding for naturalization services to help refugees and immigrants, predominantly disabled and elderly, attain citizenship (\$2.54 million)

8. **Additional \$2 million for WA New American (OA)**

The program provides 1,500 Washingtonians the opportunity to apply for citizenship with free clinics across the state. Clinics are run by over 13 organizations, resulting in over \$4 million in economic activity.

9. Prohibitions on Unnecessarily Violent Police Tactics - [HB1054](#)

[WA Coalition on Police Accountability 2021 Legislative Agenda](#)

Bill title:

Prime: Rep Johnson

This proposal bans chokeholds and neck restraints, prohibits no-knock warrants, prohibits police dogs off leash to address their use to terrorize and attack, prohibits use of military-style equipment, bans shooting at moving vehicles, restricts hot pursuit, bans tear gas, and requires law enforcement to have visible identification.

10. De-escalation, Reasonable Care in the Use of Force, and Use of Deadly Force Only as a Last Resort

I-940 mandated enhanced violence de-escalation training for every officer in the state, implemented through rules adopted by the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission (Chapter 139-11 WAC). This proposal creates an explicit statutory requirement that officers must de-escalate. It also clarifies the duty of reasonable care officers owe the public in the use of physical force. Finally, this proposal further clarifies and strengthens changes made by I-940 to the justifiable homicide defense for police officers by explaining that deadly force is justifiable only if it is necessary to protect the officer or another person from an imminent threat of serious physical harm, and was used only as a last resort after other options had been exhausted.

11. Peace Officer Accountability Act. Civil Liability and Monetary Damages for Breaching the Duties to De-escalate and Exercise Reasonable Care and for Violations of the State Constitution

[HB1202](#)

Bill Title: Addressing meaningful civil remedies for persons injured as a result of police misconduct, including by allowing for an award of attorney fees in addition to damages and injunctive and declaratory relief

Prime: Rep Thai

When a police officer harms someone without facing consequences, there is no justice for victims of police violence, no incentive to change bad behavior, community trust is eroded, and it makes everyone less safe. Reforms are critically needed. This proposal establishes state law civil causes of action for money damages and prohibits officers and their employers from raising qualified immunity as a defense.

12. Independent Criminal Investigations and an Independent Prosecutor

We support the work of the Gov. Task Force on Independent Investigations of Police Use of Force. Police should not investigate police. We need a statewide entity to conduct criminal investigations of police use of force and prosecutions by attorneys who are independent of the county prosecutors. We support transition to non-law enforcement professional criminal investigators within five years and creating a community led advisory board.

13. Police Oversight and Accountability (Hiring and Certification) - [SB 5051](#) and [HB1082](#)

Prime for SB5051: Sen. Pederson

Bill title: Concerning state oversight and accountability of peace officers and corrections officers

Prime for HB1082: Rep Goodman

Bill title: Concerning state oversight and accountability of peace officers and corrections officers

Strengthens licensing oversight at the CJTC with requirements for mandatory and permissive decertification for misconduct. Requires employer reporting and makes the composition of the CJTC majority community-led.

Prime for SB5089: Sen. Kuderer

Bill title: Concerning peace officer hiring and certification

14. Legal Financial Obligations

Voting enfranchisement for people with felonies under supervision. Thousands of WA residents who were convicted of a felony owe legal financial obligations (“LFOs”) and live under threat of having their voting rights revoked if they fail to make timely payments.

15. Local Options Bill for Ranked Choice Voting

More choices on the ballot – allows voters to vote for the candidates they really want and creates opportunity for more candidates to run