



Entering Week 8

Committee Deadlines and Floor Votes

Bills still in play have been passed by House or Senate committees or must do so by Monday, February 28. If your legislators are members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee, House Appropriations Committee, or the House Transportation Committee, we encourage you to contact them and urge them to pass bills that must still pass out of committees. Committee members are most interested in hearing from their own constituents. More details below. Additionally, some bills are ready to be voted on by the full House or Senate for final passage. Thank you for your advocacy!



Action Alert: Contact Your Legislators to Pass/Oppose These Bills

Bills Ready For A Final Vote

These are bills are ready for final passage by the House or Senate. Identify your district, legislators, and their contact information [here](#). Urge your state senator to oppose HB 1851. Ask your senator to pass HB 1646, HB 1724, HB 1748, HB 1755, and HB 1833. On the House side, urge your representatives to pass HB 5610. Bill details are below.

Action Alert: Urge Your Senator To Oppose the Expansion Of Abortion

Urge your senator to oppose the expansion of abortion, [House Bill 1851](#) (HB 1851). Identify your district, state senator, and their contact information [here](#). HB 1851 expands who may perform abortions. A physician would no longer be required to perform the procedure, and physician assistants, nurse practitioners, and other health care providers would be authorized to perform abortions. Additionally, under HB 1851 the state is prohibited from taking action against an individual for having an abortion. The state is also prohibited from taking action against someone who aids or assists a pregnant woman with getting an abortion. Language in the bill is changed from “woman” to “pregnant individual.” WSSC staff testified against HB 1851, and video may be viewed [here](#) and [here](#). In line with the bishops’ legislative priority to respect the dignity of every human being from conception to natural death, the WSSC opposes HB 1851.

Action Alert: Urge Your Senator to Support the Dementia Action Collaborative

Urge your senator to pass the Dementia Action Collaborative, [House Bill 1646](#) (HB 1646). Identify your district, state senator, and your senator's contact information [here](#). By the year 2025, it is expected that there will be 140,000 Washingtonians living with Alzheimer's disease or another form of dementia. The Dementia Action Collaborative was first established in 2014, and HB 1646 ensures that its work continues. The Dementia Action Collaborative will assess services and resources for persons with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias and their families and caregivers, examine strategies to rectify disparate effects on people of color, and develop a strategy for a state response to this public health crisis. The Dementia Action Collaborative will also review and revise the Washington State Alzheimer's Plan. Per the bishops' legislative priority of caring for the aging and those with disabilities, the WSCC supports HB 1646.

Action Alert: Urge your Senator To Support Housing Opportunities for People with Disabling Conditions

Urge your senator to pass [House Bill 1724](#) (HB 1724), which creates a permanent supportive housing advisory committee that will provide advice, recommendations, stakeholder engagement, and oversight of resource coordination to bring high quality, permanent, supportive housing to scale for individuals with disabling conditions. Identify your district and House representatives [here](#). In line with the WSCC's legislative priorities of affordable housing and caring for the aging and those with disabilities, the WSCC supports HB 1724.

Action Alert: Urge your Senator To Help Victims of Human Trafficking

Urge your senator to pass [House Bill 1748](#) (HB 1748), which assists victims of human trafficking by establishing their eligibility for the Housing and Essential Needs (HEN) program and the Aged, Blind, or Disabled (ABD) program. Identify your district, state senator, and their contact information [here](#). HEN and ABD provide cash assistance to eligible individuals in need. This bill is in line with the bishops' legislative priority of respecting life, and the WSCC supports HB 1748.

Action Alert: Urge Your Senator To Pass TANF Time Limit Extensions

Urge your senator to pass [House Bill 1755](#) (HB 1755), which extends the time limits of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. Identify your district, your senator, and your senator's contact information [here](#). TANF provides temporary cash assistance, subsidized childcare, and work programs for low-income families. There is a five-year time limit to receiving TANF. HB 1755 extends the time limits of this program to account for hardship experienced during the pandemic. The extension goes into effect when the state unemployment rate is 7% or higher. In accordance with the bishops' economic justice legislative priority, the WSCC supports HB 1755.

Action Alert: Urge Your Senator To Increase Enrollment In the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program

Urge your senator to pass [House Bill 1833](#) (HB 1833), which creates a statewide electronic system for enrollment in the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program. Identify your district, senator, and your senator's contact information [here](#). The electronic system created by HB 1833 will determine students' eligibility for free and reduced-price meals in lunch and school breakfast programs. This will increase program participation by families in need. It will also ease schools' applications for schoolwide free meals; entire schools are eligible for free meals when at least 40% of its students are eligible for free lunch and breakfast programs. In accordance with the bishops' legislative priorities of economic justice and supporting children and families, the WSCC supports HB 1833.

Action Alert: Urge the House to Pass Cost Sharing for Prescription Drugs

Urge your representatives to pass cost sharing for prescription drugs, [Senate Bill 5610](#) (SB 5610). Identify your district, your representatives, and your representatives' contact information [here](#). SB 5610 requires that all cost-sharing amounts paid by health insurance enrollees for prescription drugs be counted against enrollees' cost sharing requirements, such as deductibles, copayments, coinsurance, or similar obligations. One of the bishops' health care priorities is to address the cost of prescription drugs, and the WSCC supports SB 5610.

Targeted Action Alerts

Bills Awaiting Committee Passage

Key bills supported by the WSCC are currently under consideration by the Senate Ways and Means, House Appropriations, and House Transportation Committees. Legislators prefer to hear from their own constituents, so if you live in the districts of committee members listed below, now is the time to ask them to pass legislation described in this section of the bulletin. Identify your district, senator, and your senator's contact information [here](#).

Senate Ways and Means: Rolfes (Chair), Frockt, Robinson, Wilson, Brown, Schoesler, Honeyford, Billig, Braun, Carlyle, Conway, Dhingra, Gildon, Hasegawa, Hunt, Keiser, Mullet, Muzzall, Pedersen, Rivers, Van De Wege, Wagoner, Warnick, Wellman

House Appropriations: Ormsby (Chair), Bergquist, Gregerson, Macri, Stokesbury, Chambers, Corry, MacEwen, Boehnke, Caldier, Chandler, Chop, Cody, Dolan, Dye, Fitzgibbon, Frame, Hansen, Harris, Hoff, Jacobsen, Johnson, Lekanoff, Pollet, Rude, Ryu, Schmick, Senn, Springer, Steele, Stonier, Sullivan, Tharinger

House Transportation: Fey (Chair), Wylie, Bronoske, Ramos, Barkis, Eslick, Robertson, Volz, Berry, Chapman, Dent, Donaghy, Duerr, Entenman, Goehner, Griffey, Hackney, Klicker, McCaslin, Orcutt, Paul, Ramel, Riccelli, Slatter, Sutherland, Taylor, Valdez, Walsh, Wicks

Addressing Climate Change

Targeted Action Alert: If your senator is a member of the [Senate Committee on Ways and Means](#) please urge your senator to address climate change and support [House Bill 1099](#) (HB 1099). Identify your district, your senator, and your senator's contact information [here](#). HB 1099 improves the state's climate response through updates to the Growth Management Act, the state's comprehensive planning framework. Cities and counties will upgrade their land use and transportation planning to reduce greenhouse emissions. Additionally, this bill embeds a definition for environmental justice into the Growth Management Act. Environmental justice is defined as the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people, regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. This bill is in line with the bishops' legislative priority to Care for God's Creation, and the WSCC supports HB 1099.

Modifying Legal Financial Obligations (LFOs)

Targeted Action Alert: If your senator is a member of the [Senate Committee on Ways and Means](#), please urge your senator to pass [House Bill 1412](#) (HB 1412), which modifies legal financial obligations (LFOs). When a defendant is convicted of a crime, the court may impose legal financial obligations as part of its judgment and sentence. Examples of LFOs include victim restitution, crime victims' compensation fees, and costs associated with the offender's prosecution and sentence. Because formerly incarcerated individuals are often impoverished, it is difficult to pay LFOs. HB 1412 sets a standard of indigency to determine if offenders have an inability to pay for LFOs. The bill also allows courts to not impose restitution or to waive full or partial restitution if an offender does not have the current or likely future ability to pay LFOs. In

line with the bishops' restorative justice and economic justice legislative priorities, the WSCC supports HB 1412.

Support the Charity Care Act

Targeted Action Alert: If your senator is a member of the [Senate Committee on Ways and Means](#), please urge your senator to pass the Charity Care Act, [House Bill 1616](#) (HB 1616). Identify your district, your senator, and your senator's contact information [here](#). HB 1616 increases the number of individuals eligible for charity care at hospitals. In accordance with the bishops' hospitals and health care and economic justice legislative priorities, the WSCC supports the Charity Care Act.

Exempting Affordable Housing from the Real Estate Excise Tax

Targeted Action Alert: If your senator is a member of the [Senate Committee on Ways and Means](#), please urge your senator to pass [House Bill 1643](#) (HB 1643), which will exempt the sale or transfer of property to a nonprofit, housing authority, public corporation, county, or municipal corporation from the real estate excise tax if the grantee intends to use the property for rental housing for low-income persons. Identify your district, your senator, and your senator's contact information [here](#). In line with the bishops' affordable housing legislative priority, the WSCC supports HB 1643.

Closing the Digital Equity Divide

Targeted Action Alert: If your senator is a member of the [Senate Committee on Ways and Means](#), please urge your senator to close the digital equity divide and pass [House Bill 1723](#) (HB 1723). Identify your district, your senator, and your senator's contact information [here](#). Our society is increasingly dependent on digital connectivity. However, many residents living in rural or underserved areas or of modest income do not have access to quality broadband internet service. HB 1723 provides low-income individuals with reduced rates for eligible voice and broadband services. It also provides discounted rates for telecommunications services and infrastructure costs to institutions such as public schools, libraries, early learning centers, homelessness shelters, community centers, and other nonprofit or governmental community support organizations. On January 27 WSCC Executive Director, Mario Villanueva, testified in support of HB 1723. View his testimony [here](#). In accordance with the bishops' economic justice legislative priority, the WSCC supports HB 1723.

Endangered Missing Person Advisory Designation for Indigenous Persons

Targeted Action Alert: If your state senator is a member of the [Senate Committee on Ways and Means](#), please urge your senator to pass [House Bill 1725](#) (HB 1725), which creates an endangered missing person advisory designation for missing indigenous persons. Identify your district, senator, and your senator's contact information [here](#). Indigenous people experience disproportionate rates of violence in Washington state. To address the crisis of missing and murdered indigenous people, HB 1725 creates a special alert for missing indigenous women and persons. This alert is akin to amber alerts designated for missing children. In accordance with the legislative priority to respect the dignity of life, the WSCC supports HB 1725.

Tribal Consultation and the Climate Commitment Act

Targeted Action Alert: If your state senator is a member of the [Senate Committee on Ways and Means](#) please urge your senator to pass tribal consultation with the Climate Commitment Act, [House Bill 1753](#) (HB 1753). Identify your district, your senator, and your senator's contact information [here](#). Under HB 1753, state agencies must offer early, meaningful, and individual consultation with any federally recognized tribes affected by Climate Commitment Act programs

that may impact tribal resources such as tribal cultural resources, fisheries, and archaeological sites. In accordance with the bishops' legislative priorities to respect the life and dignity of all and to care for God's creation, the WSCC supports HB 1753.

Prevent Homelessness Among Persons Discharged from Behavioral Health Settings

Targeted Action Alert: If your state senator is a member of the [Senate Committee on Ways and Means](#), urge your senator to pass [House Bill 1860](#) (HB 1860) and prevent homelessness among persons discharged from behavioral health settings. Identify your district, your senator, and your senator's contact information [here](#). Per HB 1860, when the Health Care Authority contracts with a Managed Care Organization, the Managed Care Organization will be required to provide housing-related care coordination services for enrollees who are discharged from inpatient behavioral health settings. Discharge is a pivotal point in a person's treatment or recovery, and stable housing is a necessity to continued successful treatment and good health. In accordance with the bishops' legislative priority focusing on health care, the WSCC supports HB 1860.

Help Medicaid Recipients Receive Housing and Community Supports

Targeted Action Alert: If your state senator is a member of the [Senate Committee on Ways and Means](#), urge your senator to help Medicaid recipients receive housing and community supports and pass [House Bill 1866](#) (HB 1866). Identify your district, your senator, and your senator's contact information [here](#). HB 1866 establishes the Apple Health and Homes Program, which will provide a supportive housing benefit and community support services to low-income individuals who have medical risk factors and encounter barriers to finding stable housing. In line with the bishops' health care and affordable housing legislative priorities, the WSCC supports HB 1866.

Improve the Working Families Tax Credit

Targeted Action Alert: If your state senator is a member of the [Senate Committee on Ways and Means](#), urge your senator to pass improvements to the Working Families Tax Credit, [House Bill 1888](#) (HB 1888). In 2021 the legislature voted to fund the Working Families Tax Credit, a tax credit that assists low-income, working individuals and families. The Working Families Tax Credit addresses Washington's regressive tax system, which causes low-income Washingtonians to pay a higher percentage of their household income in comparison to wealthier residents. HB 1888 improves the Working Families Tax Credit by aligning rates with federal maximum qualifying income levels. In accordance with the bishops' legislative priority of economic justice, the WSCC supports HB 1888.

Reduce Youth and Young Adult Homelessness

Targeted Action Alert: If your senator is a member of the [Senate Committee on Ways and Means](#), please urge your senator to pass [House Bill 1905](#) (HB 1905). Identify your district, your senator, and your senator's contact info [here](#). HB 1905 establishes a rapid response team to support youth and young adults exiting publicly funded care, including the child welfare system, behavioral health system, juvenile justice system, and programs administered by the Office of Homeless Youth Prevention and Protection Program. Young individuals exiting these programs are at a high risk for experiencing homelessness. In line with the bishops' children and families and affordable housing legislative priorities, the WSCC supports HB 1905.

Improve Services For Individuals With Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

Targeted Action Alert: If one of your representatives is a member of the [House Appropriations Committee](#), please urge your representatives to improve services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and pass [Senate Bill 5268](#) (SB 5268). Identify your district, your representatives, and your representatives' contact information [here](#). SB 5268 increases the capabilities of community residential settings and redesigns intermediate care facilities. This is a landmark bill to improve services for individuals with disabilities. In line with the bishops' legislative priority to care for the aging and those disabilities, the WSCC supports SB 5268.

Establishing a Prescription Drug Affordability Board

Targeted Action Alert: If one of your representatives is a member of the [House Appropriations Committee](#), please urge your representative to pass [Senate Bill 5532](#) (SB 5532) to establish a Prescription Drug Affordability Board. Identify your district, your representatives, and your representatives' contact information [here](#). The Prescription Drug Affordability Board will have the authority to set upper limit payments for up to 12 prescription drugs that have led or will lead to excess costs for consumers. In accordance with the bishops' health care legislative priority, the WSCC supports SB 5532.

Expanding Eligibility For the Independent Youth Housing Program

Targeted Action Alert: If one of your representatives is a member of the [House Appropriations Committee](#), please urge your representative to support expanding eligibility for the Independent Youth Housing Program, [Senate Bill 5566](#) (SB 5566). Identify your district, your representatives, and your representatives' contact information [here](#). The Independent Youth Housing Program provides rental assistance and case management services to youth who have aged out of foster care programs. One of the goals of the program is to prevent youth from experiencing homelessness, as this population is at increased risk for homelessness. HB 5566 increases eligibility of the Independent Youth Housing Program by including youth who were in foster care at any time, extending the age limit from 23 to 25, and including youth receiving voluntary extended foster care services. In line with the bishops' children and families and affordable housing legislative priorities, the WSCC supports SB 5566.

Increasing the Personal Needs Allowance for Medicaid Recipients

Targeted Action Alert: If one of your representatives is a member of the [House Appropriations Committee](#), urge your representative to help Medicaid recipients and pass [Senate Bill 5745](#) (SB 5745), which increases the personal needs allowance to a more sustainable level. Identify your district, your representatives, and your representatives' contact info [here](#). Federal law requires that Medicaid recipients contribute to the cost of their long-term care. In calculating their contribution, a personal needs allowance may be deducted. The current personal needs allowance is too small, amounting to \$1,045 per month for a single person to cover rent, food, and other costs. A higher personal needs allowance gives seniors the opportunity to choose to stay in their homes and receive care, rather than move to more expensive facilities. Washington currently only allows personal needs allowances to equal 100% of the federal benefit rate, but other states allow for a personal needs allowances equaling 300% of the federal benefit rate. Catholic Community Services' Peter Nazzal, Director of Long Term Care, testified in favor of HB 5745. In line with the bishops' legislative priorities of economic justice and caring for the aging and disabled, the WSCC supports SB 5745.

Human Trafficking and Commercial Drivers Licenses

Targeted Action Alert: If one of your representatives is a member of the [House Transportation Committee](#), urge your representative to pass [Senate Bill 5631](#) (SB 5631), which addresses human trafficking by commercial drivers. SB 5631 disqualifies a person convicted of human trafficking offenses from holding a commercial driver license for life. Human trafficking often involves the use of commercial vehicles. In accordance with the bishops' legislative priority to respect the life and dignity of all, the WSCC supports SB 5631.

Assisted Suicide Bill Fails To Pass Out Of Committee

Thank you for your advocacy! The assisted suicide bill, [House Bill 1141](#) (HB 1141), failed to pass out of the Senate Committee on Health and Long Term Care. The bill is now dead for this session. In 2008 Washington voters approved Initiative 1000, the Physician-Assisted Death Initiative, but only after being assured that certain "safeguards" would be in place. HB 1141 loosens safeguards, increasing access to physician-assisted suicide and accelerating the process. The bill broadens the definition of a "qualified medical provider" who can make a diagnosis and prescribe lethal medication. Two physicians are no longer required to diagnose a patient. HB 1141 also loosens the definition of those who can provide counseling; in lieu of a psychiatrist or psychologist, a social worker, mental health counselor, or psychiatric advanced nurse practitioner may determine if a patient is suffering from a psychiatric or psychological disorder or depression causing impaired judgement. Additionally, this bill shortens the minimum amount of time from 15 days to just 72 hours that a patient is required to wait between making a request and receiving a prescription to terminate his or her life. The 72 hour wait time may even be waived if the "qualified medical provider" deems that a patient has less than 72 hours to live. HB 1141 also permits assisted suicide prescriptions to be delivered via the mail. In accordance with the bishops' legislative priority to respect life, the WSCC opposes HB 1141.

Useful Links For the Legislative Session

[Legislative Priorities of the Washington State Catholic Conference](#)

[Identify your district and legislators](#)

[Washington State Legislature](#) – Information on bills, hearings, legislators, and more

[Find bill information](#)

[WSCC website](#)

From the US Conference Of Catholic Bishops



Pro-Life Action Alert From the USCCB

Contact our US senators before Monday's vote. Click on this [Action Alert](#) from the US Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) to urge your senators to respect life and oppose H.R. 3755. To learn more about this bill, read this [letter](#) from Archbishop Lori, chair of the USCCB Committee on Pro-life Activities, and this USCCB [fact sheet](#).



Prayers for Ukraine

Echoing Pope Francis's [call for prayer and fasting](#), Archbishop Jose Gomez, USCCB president, encourages [prayer for Ukraine](#) as it is in the midst of a humanitarian crisis. Pope Francis named March 2, Ash Wednesday, as a Day of Fasting for Peace.

Ukraine: How To Help

Catholic Relief Services (CRS) is working to aid those impacted by the invasion of Ukraine. Learn more about their efforts and how you can help [here](#). Additionally, Catholic News Service (CNS) released this [article](#) naming other organizations assisting with humanitarian efforts.



Upcoming Events

Planting Seeds Of Hope: Taking Action For Our Common Home

Register for this event [here](#).

planting seeds of

HOPE

TAKING ACTION
FOR OUR COMMON HOME

Saturday, March 19th from 9am–3pm
Seattle University, Campion Hall
914 E Jefferson St, Seattle, WA 98122

This free in-person event is open to all and will include a vegetarian boxed lunch & parking.

FREE - Earth Justice Summit for all!

ORGANIZED BY

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Seattle Catholic Men's Conference

Click [here](#) to learn more about Seattle Catholic Men's Conference. A conference in Spanish will be held May 7.




SEATTLE CATHOLIC
MEN'S CONFERENCE
MARCH 25-26, 2022

IRON SHARPENS IRON

THEME:
BROTHERS UNITE
STAND FOR
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ATTENDEES WILL FOLLOW SEATTLE ARCHDIOCESEAN GUIDELINES.

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PREPARES Annual Appeal

The WSCC bishops invite you to learn about and support [PREPARES](#).



*"Your every act
should be done with love."
Corinthians 16:14*



Dear Friends,

This simple, yet profound message we find in Corinthians is most fitting as we invite you to join us in opening your hearts with love, care and concern for infants, children, mothers and dads in desperate need.

The PREPARES program is our combined initiative as Catholic bishops to provide a nurturing response to mothers and fathers who have chosen the precious gift of life. A promise of direct support and assistance from pregnancy to their child's fifth birthday. Regardless of religious beliefs, this parish-based program, administered by our Catholic Charities agencies statewide, offers low-income families vital, life-affirming services.

Your gift to PREPARES, no matter the amount, will have real impact in helping to ensure that the critical services for this pro-life, pro-family program continue to thrive and expand in parishes in your region and all across the state of Washington.

From our own hearts, we extend the gift of prayer that you and your family are abundantly blessed and that all those in the sacred care of PREPARES will be renewed by our "every act... done with love."

With gratitude and blessings, we remain in the heart of Christ.

Archbishop Paul D. Etienne
Archbishop of Seattle

Bishop Joseph J. Tyson
Bishop of Yakima

Bishop Thomas A. Daly
Bishop of Spokane

Important Dates

February 28	Last day to pass bills out of House fiscal committees and Senate Ways and Means and Transportation Committees
March 2	Ash Wednesday
March 4	Last day to pass opposite house bills
March 10	Final day of the state legislative session
April 17	Easter
April 20	Earth Day

WSCC Staff



We invite you to contact us at any time.

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