



Bills That Need Your Action Now

Action Alert: Sign in “Pro” for TANF Time Limit Extensions

[Sign in](#) “pro” for [House Bill 1755](#) (HB 1755), which extends the time limits of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. This link will be available until Monday, January 31 at 2:30 PM. HB 1755 is scheduled for a hearing before the House Appropriations Committee on January 31 at 3:30 PM. When signing in you may leave the “organization” box blank or write in “parishioner of --- Church.” TANF provides temporary cash assistance, subsidized childcare, and work programs for low-income families. There is a five-year limit to receiving TANF. HB 1755 extends the time limits of this program to account for hardships experienced during the pandemic. The extension goes into effect when the state unemployment is 7% or higher. In accordance with the bishops’ economic justice legislative priority, the WSCC supports HB 1755.



Action Alert: Sign in “Pro” To Help Victims of Human Trafficking

[Sign in](#) “pro” for [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. HEN and ABD provide cash assistance to eligible individuals in need. This sign in link will be available until Monday, January 31 at 2:30 PM. HB 1748 is scheduled for a hearing in the House Committee on Appropriations on January 31 at 3:30 PM. When signing in you may leave the “organization” box blank or write in “parishioner of --- Church.” This bill is in line with the bishops’ legislative priority of respecting life, and the WSCC supports HB 1748.

Action Alert: Sign in “Pro” for the Evergreen Basic Income Trust

[Sign in](#) “pro” for [House Bill 2009](#) (HB 2009), the Evergreen Basic Income Trust. This link will be available until Tuesday, February 1 at 7:00 AM. HB 2009 is scheduled for a hearing in the House Committee on Housing, Human Services, and Veterans on February 1 at 8:00 AM. When signing in you may leave the “organization” box blank or write in “parishioner of --- Church.” As wages fail to keep pace with the cost of living and with the intent of ensuring economic sustainability for families, HB 2009 creates the Evergreen Basic Income Trust. The Evergreen Basic Income Trust will provide 36 months of cash assistance to approved applicants earning less than 50% of the area median income, as determined by the US Department of

Housing and Urban Development's annually adjusted home income limits. Cash assistance will be equal to the fair market rent for a two-bedroom home in the applicant's zip code. Prioritized applicants to the program will include the lowest income households and key populations such as young adults aging out of foster care, young adults experiencing homelessness, and adults who were formerly incarcerated. In accordance with the bishops' legislative priorities of economic justice and affordable housing, the WSCC supports HB 2009.

Action Alert: Sign in "Pro" for Solitary Confinement Restriction Act

[Sign in](#) "pro" for [House Bill 1756](#) (HB 1756), the Solitary Confinement Restriction Act. This link will be available until Tuesday, February 1 at 2:30 PM. HB 1756 is scheduled for a hearing in the House Appropriations Committee on February 1 at 3:30 PM. When signing in you may leave the "organization" box blank or write in "parishioner of --- Church." Solitary confinement can have devastating and inhumane effects on incarcerated individuals. Those placed in prolonged solitary confinement have higher rates of medical conditions, shorter life expectancy, and higher recidivism rates. Solitary confinement is also disproportionately imposed on Black, indigenous, and Hispanic individuals. The United Nations defines solitary confinement of 15 days or more as torture. HB 1756 limits the use of solitary confinement. WSCC executive director, Mario Villanueva, testified in support of this bill. View his testimony [here](#). In accordance with the bishops' restorative justice legislative priority, the WSCC supports HB 1756.

Action Alert: Sign in "Pro" for Unemployment Benefits for Immigrants

[Sign in](#) "pro" for [Senate Bill 5438](#) (SB 5438), unemployment benefits for immigrants experiencing job loss as the result of COVID-19. This link will be available until Wednesday, February 2 at 9:30 AM. SB 5438 is scheduled for a hearing in the Senate Committee on Labor, Commerce, and Tribal Affairs on February 2 at 10:30 AM. When signing in you may leave the "organization" box blank or write in "parishioner of --- Church." During the pandemic some of the highest rates of job loss have been in low-wage sectors with the largest number of immigrant workers: restaurant, hotel, retail, and construction industries. SB 5438 establishes a program to provide unemployment benefits to workers excluded from state unemployment insurance benefits due to immigration or citizenship status. Under this program, individuals will receive \$400/week for unemployment due to the pandemic during the period of January 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022. In line with the bishops' immigration and economic justice legislative priorities, the WSCC supports SB 5438.

Action Alert: Urge the House To Oppose the Expansion of Abortion

Urge your representative to oppose the expansion of abortion, [House Bill 1851](#) (HB 1851). Identify your district, House representatives, and their contact information [here](#). The House is expected to vote on this bill soon. 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." WSCC Executive Director Mario Villanueva testified against HB 1851 before the House Committee on Health Care and Wellness last week. Video may be viewed [here](#). In line with the bishops' legislative priority to respect the dignity of every human being from conception to natural death, the WSCC opposes HB 1851.

Action Alert: Support the Charity Care Act

Contact your House representatives and urge them to pass the Charity Care Act, [House Bill 1616](#) (HB 1616). Identify your district, your House representatives, and their contact info [here](#). HB 1616 increases the number of individuals eligible for charity care at hospitals. In accordance with the bishops' hospitals and health care legislative priority, the WSCC supports the expansion of the Charity Care Act.

Action Alert: Help Endangered, Missing Indigenous Persons

Contact your House representatives and urge them to pass [House Bill 1725](#) (HB 1725). Identify your district, your House representatives, and their contact info [here](#). House Bill 1725 (HB 1725) ~~which~~ creates an endangered missing person advisory designation for missing indigenous persons. 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 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.

Action Alert: Ask Your House Representatives to Support Access and Representation for Individuals with Disabilities

Contact your House representatives and urge them to pass [House Bill 1802](#) (HB 1802), which increases access and representation in policy-making for individuals with disabilities. Identify your district, your House representatives, and their contact info [here](#). The WSCC supports HB 1802, as it is in line with the bishops' legislative priority of caring for the aging and those with disabilities.

Oppose the Expansion of Assisted Suicide

Targeted Action Alert: If your senator is a member of the Senate Committee on Health and Long Term Care, please urge your senator to oppose the expansion of assisted suicide, [House Bill 1141](#) (HB 1141). Identify your district and state senator [here](#). 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.

Tax Exemptions for Low-Income Rentals

Targeted Action Alert: If one of your House representatives is a member of the [House Committee on Finance](#), please urge your representative to support [House Bill 1643](#) (HB 1643). Identify your district, your House representatives, and their contact information [here](#). The committee is scheduled to vote on Monday, January 31 at 10:00 AM. HB 1643 exempts the real

estate excise tax from sale or transfer of property to a nonprofit, housing authority, public corporation, county, or municipal corporation if the grantee intends to use the property for rental housing for low-income persons. In line with the bishops' affordable housing legislative priority, the WSCC supports HB 1643.

Tenant Protections From Excessive Rent and Related Fees

Targeted Action Alert: If one of your House representatives is a member of the [House Committee on Housing, Human Services, and Veterans](#), please urge your representative to support tenant protections from excessive rent and related fees, [House Bill 1904](#) (HB 1904). Identify your district, your House representatives, and their contact information [here](#). The House Committee is scheduled to vote on Tuesday, Feb 1 at 8:00 AM. Provisions of HB 1904 include requiring landlords to provide at least 180 to 220 days' notice for rent increases over 3 percent, allowing a tenant to terminate a tenancy for any rent increase over 3 percent, and limiting late fees to 1.5 percent of the tenant's monthly rent. In line with the bishops' affordable housing and economic justice legislative priorities, the WSCC supports HB 1904.

Reducing Youth and Young Adult Homelessness Following Discharge from Publicly Funded Care

Targeted Action Alert: If one of your House representatives is a member of the [House Appropriations Committee](#), urge your representative to pass House Bill 1905 (HB 1905). Identify your district, your House representatives, and their 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.

Housing Opportunities for People with Disabling Conditions

Targeted Action Alert: If one of your House representatives is a member of the [House Appropriations Committee](#), please urge your representative 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.

Additional Bill Updates

HB 1723 Closes the Digital Equity Divide



On January 27 WSCC Executive Director, Mario Villanueva, testified in support of [House Bill 1723](#), which will close the digital equity divide. View his testimony [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. In accordance with the bishops' economic justice legislative priority, the WSCC supports HB 1723.

Diaper Subsidies for TANF Recipients



Targeted Action Alert: If your state senator is a member of the [Senate Ways and Means Committee](#), please urge your senator to support diaper subsidies for recipients of Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), [House Bill 1947](#) (HB 1947) and [Senate Bill 5838](#) (SB 5838). Identify your district, your senator, and your senators' contact information [here](#). TANF provides temporary cash assistance, subsidized childcare, and work programs for low-income households with children. HB 1947 and SB 5838 authorize additional monthly payments to TANF recipients with children under the age of three to cover child-related necessities such as diapers. Aleah Patulot, director of Pregnancy and Parenting Support (PREPARES) for Catholic Community Services of Western Washington, testified at the January 21 Senate hearing for SB

5838. In line with the bishops' children and families and economic justice legislative priorities, the WSCC supports HB 1947 and SB 5838.

Prevent Homelessness Among Persons Discharged from Behavioral Health Settings

[House Bill 1860](#) (HB 1860) prevents homelessness among persons discharged from behavioral health settings. The House Committee on Health Care and Wellness successfully passed HB 1860 out of its committee on January 26. According to HB 1860, when the Health Care Authority contracts with a Managed Care Organization, the Managed Care Organization is 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.

Dementia Action Collaborative Bill Passes Out of House

[House Bill 1646](#) (HB 1646) continues the work of the Dementia Action Collaborative. HB 1646 was successfully passed out of the House on January 26. HB 1646 will now move on to the Senate. 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.

Improving the Working Families Tax Credit

[House Bill 1888](#) (HB 1888), which improves the Working Families Tax Credit, was successfully passed by the House Committee on Finance on January 27. 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.

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 USCCB

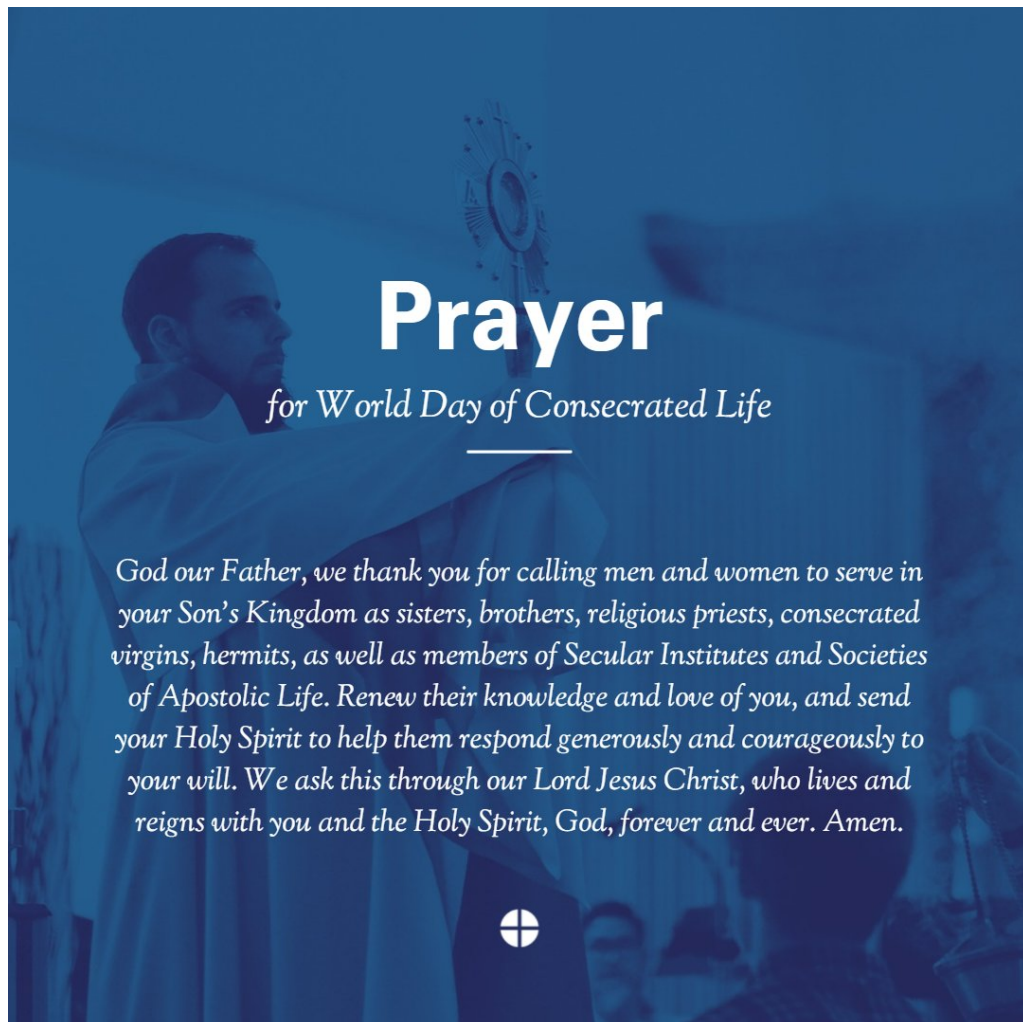


Action Alert: Contact Congress

Click on this [Action Alert](#) from the US Conference of Catholic Bishops, and urge Congress to support poor families and protect our common home.

Upcoming Events

February 2: [World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life](#)



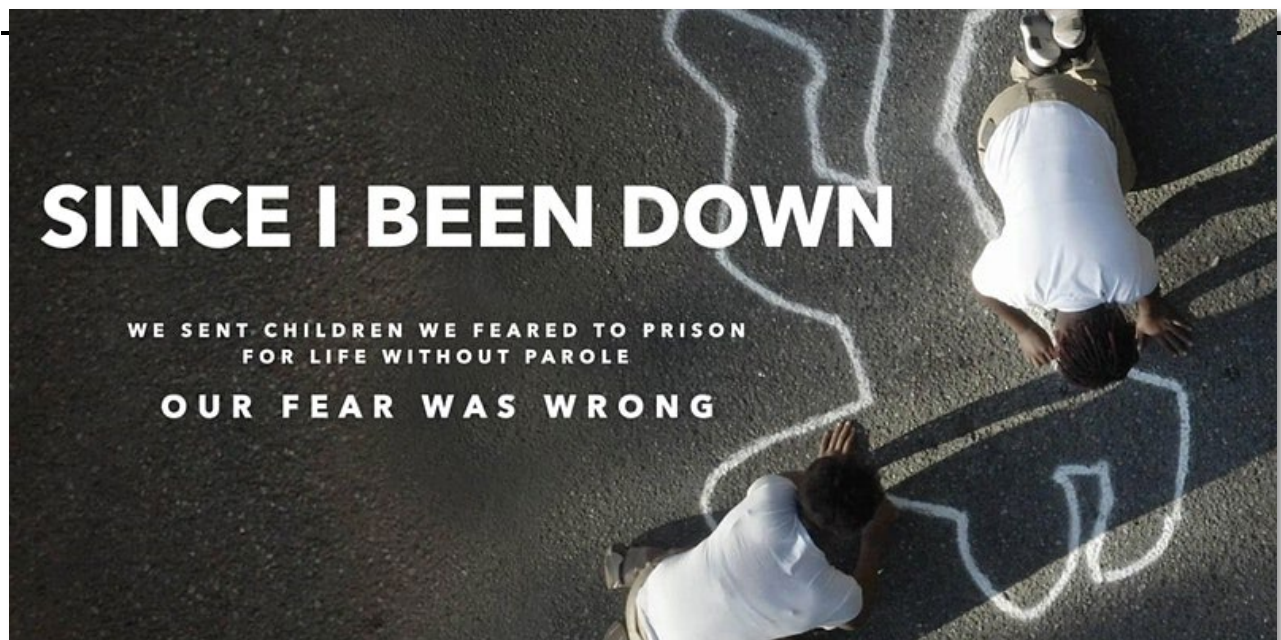
God our Father, we thank you for calling men and women to serve in your Son's Kingdom as sisters, brothers, religious priests, consecrated virgins, hermits, as well as members of Secular Institutes and Societies of Apostolic Life. Renew their knowledge and love of you, and send your Holy Spirit to help them respond generously and courageously to your will. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever. Amen.

Virtual March for Life and Capitol Life Chain

The Virtual Washington State March for Life is scheduled for February 4. More information will be available via [Facebook](#). At the same time, Students for Life will be hosting an in-person Life Chain in Olympia. Meet in front of the Supreme Court steps at 11:45 AM. Come pray and wave signs to show your legislators that you want pro-life representation. The event will end around 2pm, just in time for you to tune into the virtual pro-life march. Contact: Karlie Lodjic, kalodjic@studentsforlife.org.

Restorative Justice Event

Watch *Since I've Been Down*, and then join for conversation on February 6. Click [here](#) for more information.



Racial Justice Workshop



In this February 12 [Racial Justice Workshop](#), Fr. Dan Horan, author of *A White Catholic's Guide to Racism and Privilege*, invites us to actively address racism and become collaborators with our Black sisters and brothers as we work for racial justice in our society and Church. Grounded in the Gospel, the wisdom of Catholic tradition and Catholic Social Teaching, he offers practical ways to educate ourselves and advocate for racial justice.

Important Dates

January 30	Catholic Schools Week begins
February 2	World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life
February 3	Last day to pass bills out of committee, with the exception of House fiscal committees and Senate Ways and Means and Transportation Committees
February 4	Life Chain event in Olympia, sponsored by Students for Life
February 7	Last day to pass bills out of the House fiscal committees and Senate Ways and Means and Transportation Committees
February 8	World Day of Prayer, Reflection, and Action Against Human Trafficking
February 15	Last day to pass bills out of house of origin
February 24	Last day to pass bills out of the opposite house with the exception of House fiscal committees and Senate Ways and Means and Transportation Committees
February 28	Last day to pass bills out of House fiscal committees and Senate Ways and Means and Transportation Committees
March 4	Last day to pass opposite house bills
March 10	Final day of the state legislative session

WSCC Staff

We invite you to contact us at any time.

Mario Villanueva, Executive Director
mario.villanueva@wacatholics.org

Adrienne Corpuz Joyce, Director of Policy and Communications
adrienne.joyce@wacatholics.org

Tracey Wilson Yackley, Operations Manager
tracey.yackley@wacatholics.org

Did a relative or friend forward this WSCC Catholic Advocacy Bulletin to you? Sign up for your own free subscription [here](#). The bulletin is available in both Spanish and English.

You can also find the Washington State Catholic Conference on Facebook, Twitter @wacatholics, and Instagram.

Click [here](#) to view previous WSCC bulletins on our website.

