

YWCA 2019 STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

YWCA is on a mission to eliminate racism and empower women. We advocate on public policy and budget matters move us closer to becoming a just and thriving community.

Increase Revenue to Fund Education and Protect Essential Services

We urge legislators to focus on changes to our revenue system that will rebuild the economy to work for everyone. We support a balanced approach that includes generating policies that eliminate race and gender disparities, increase sustainable investment in education and protect essential safety net programs.

End Homelessness and Increase Access to Affordable Housing

- **Invest Significantly in the Housing Trust Fund**
The Housing Trust Fund is our most effective tool for creating affordable homes, but recently it has been considerably underfunded. A large investment in the Housing Trust Fund will enable communities to build affordable housing.
- **Let Communities Build Affordable Housing (HB 2437)**
Washingtonians need significant resources to build more affordable homes. Allowing local governments to keep a portion of the tax dollars they already collect and use them to build affordable homes.
- **Reform the Eviction Process (HB 2804)**
In order to reduce evictions and homelessness in Washington state, reforming the eviction process to give a tenant additional time to pay rent. Court costs and attorney's fees accrued from the eviction system would be less.

Build Economic Security for Washington Women and Families

- **Pass Secure Scheduling**
Secure scheduling addresses the crisis of unstable and unpredictable hours. Secure scheduling ensures that people who work at fast food, retail, and restaurants when they are going to work and how many hours they are going to get by providing several new rights. A few examples of these rights include but not limited to: two weeks notice of schedule, predictability pay if employer adds, cuts, or changes scheduled shifts.
- **Pass Keep Washington Working (HB 1985/SB 5689)**
Establishing a statewide policy supporting Washington state's economy and immigrants' role in the workplace. It also restricts the use of state resources to assist in registration or surveillance programs or any other laws, rules, or policies targeting Washington residents on the basis of protected class, or immigration or citizenship status

Reduce Barriers for YWCA Program Participants/Safety

- **Pass the Sentencing Reform Act (HB 1789/SB 6500)**
Creates a community review board within the office of the governor to review incarcerated offenders for possible early release after twenty years of confinement. Permits an offender, convicted of and incarcerated for one or more crimes, to petition the community review board for early release after serving at least twenty years of total confinement.

- **Change Driving a Motor Vehicle with a Suspended or Revoked License ([HB 2481/SB 6189](#))**
Decriminalize the charge of third-degree driving with a suspended license, a misdemeanor. Under current state law, those caught driving with a suspended license due to unpaid traffic tickets or because they didn't show up for court hearings can be jailed. Fines and the possibility of jail time under the current law criminalize poverty and hurts communities of color.

Contact Information: Heidi Park, Political Strategist
hpark@ywcaworks.org or 206.568.5879