



## **YWCA 2020 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 continue to 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**

HB 1694 – Morgan. Requires a landlord, upon receipt of a tenant's written request, to permit the tenant to pay deposits, nonrefundable fees, and last month's rent in installments. Prohibits a landlord from imposing a fee, charging interest, or otherwise imposing a cost on a tenant because a tenant elects to pay in installments. This bill would dramatically lessen the burden of moving for low-income people and communities of color; as well protecting them from potential retaliation from a landlord, lessening the possibility of homelessness.

### **Build Economic Security for Washington Women and Families**

HB 1491 – Macri. 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 know when they are going to work and how many hours they are going to get by providing several new rights. For example, two weeks' notice of schedule, predictability pay if employer adds, cuts or changes scheduled shifts.

HB 1527 – Entenman. Allows low-income and middle-income workers to recover some or all of the sales tax they pay as a way to increase their economic security. The goal is to increase economic security for low and middle-income workers and decrease the regressivity of the state tax code.

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## **Reduce Barriers for YWCA Program Participants/Safety**

SB 5819 – Darnielle. Pass the Sentencing Reform Act. 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.

SB 5076 – Kuderer. Automatic restoration of voting rights for persons with a felony conviction when no longer incarcerated (currently they must have completed community supervision as well). Allows any person who is no longer confined in a Department of Corrections facility to register to vote. Given the disproportionality of Black people, POC and other marginalized populations, many of whom are low income, the need to ensure that their voices are heard during the election process is imperative.

HB 1282 – Reeves. Change Driving a Motor Vehicle with Suspended or Revoked License. Decriminalize the charge of third degree driving with a suspended license, a misdemeanor (DWLS3). Under current state law, those caught driving with a suspended license due to unpaid traffic tickets or because they did not show up for court hearings, can be jailed. The bill would help people work out a method of payment, and would be a major help to low-income persons who are caught in a downward spiral because of failure to pay off fines. Fines and the possibility of jail time under the current law criminalize poverty and hurts women and communities of color.