

Legislative Summary for Policy Café Topics October 9, 2019

LGBTQ+ Rights bills are often good example of how a bill may just ask for a small language change that can make a big difference to one group that has been “left out”. LGBTQ+ Rights

- Track bills at LGBTQ Caucus website; <http://sdc.wastateleg.org/lgbtq/current-legislation/>
- Last session bills enacted added language to existing laws to protect LGBTQI and created a LGBTQI Commission
- This session: non-binary gender category on forms [SB 5342](#), sex education [B 5395](#), Criminal (bias-based criminal offenses [SB 5850](#), hate crimes protection orders [SB 5745/ HB 1774](#) , identify defense [HB 1687](#)), veteran coordinator [SB 5900, HB 1650](#).

Student Loan Debt bills are good examples of equity bills when they remove a barrier so everyone has equal access, such as tuition changes (free of lower cost), or student loan rates. Bills that provide a waiver or scholarship to certain groups (veterans, homeless students, native Americans) is an example of trying to reach “equality” by giving some more than others so they can “catch up”. A bill to remove job restriction requirements for childcare assistance for students is another example.

- Track bills at Washington Student Association's (WAS) <http://www.wastudents.org/legislative-agenda-2019/>;
- Last session bills enacted were Loan transparency Act and Student loan bill of rights.
- This session track general debt relief [2SSB 5774](#), student loan program (1% loans) [1542](#), free college program [SB5393](#) and [HB1340](#), affordable access to postsecondary education [HB 1123](#). One bill particularly helpful to women is the childcare restrictions removed **bill** [SB5341](#). Some bills target specific groups: Native American scholarships ([HB2001](#) & [SB5709](#) McCoy), Veteran waivers [HB 1178](#), Homeless students ([1572](#) and [5800](#)) and undocumented student loan program (not yet introduced).
- Sometimes a bill is introduced because a special interest group pushes it (eg, Veterans), other times it is introduced because research and data identify a problem or area of need that a law or policy can address (general high cost of student debt).

School to Prison Pipeline

Washington State has made major changes to school disciplinary policy over past 8 years.

- No longer a zero tolerance state as of 2019-2020 school year.
- This happened by a series of legislative action: task force and OSPI report requirements, data disaggregation requirements, introduction of behavioral health and social learning initiatives and changes to truancy laws.

We can expect a number of bills coming up to further address these issues. This is a good example of how one policy goal needs lots of different support.

- [HB2767](#): limit the suspension and expulsion of kids in K-3rd grade; [HB1106](#): Truancy; [HB 1479](#):student mental health; [HB 1221](#): youth suicide; [HB 1240](#): suicide review teams; [HB 1454](#): students with disabilities; [SB 5052](#): school resource officers; [SB 5945/ HB 1895](#): youth gang reduction pilot; [SB 5395/ HB 1407](#): sexual health education

MMIWG (Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls).

- Track bills at Members of Color Caucus: <http://sdc.wastateleg.org/mocc/current-legislation/>
- Recent bills enacted: [SHB2951](#) ordered a study; [2SHB 1713](#) focused on law enforcement issues (training and staffing).
- This session new bills or local polices (ie Seattle) to support law enforcement training and community outreach/ Also related bills [SB 5079](#) – Enacting the Native American Voting Rights Act of Washington; [SB 5709](#) – Creating the Native American opportunity scholarship program

Title IX: You can track Washington state investigations of Title IX complaints at [Department of Education website](#)

- Last session: [HB 1149](#) Sexual assault survivor protection; [SB 5649](#) Improving Statutory Protections Against Sexual Assault Crimes Washington; [SB 5258](#) The Isolated Workers Bill requires employers to adopt sexual harassment policies and provide training to supervisors and staff; [SB5869](#) Trans-bullying, Concerning harassment, intimidation, bullying, and discrimination in public schools.
- This session: [HB1998](#) Creating a task force on sexual violence at institutions of higher education

PayGap/Leadership Gap

- Local Resource: Women’s Funding Alliance, <https://wfalliance.org/initiatives/100-percent-talent/>Economic Institute <http://www.opportunityinstitute.org/>
- Recent legislation: 16 out of 24 bills need to provide equal opportunity in the workplace have passed. Still need 8 more. See Washington state report card https://www.aauw.org/aauw_check/pdf_download/show_pdf.php?file=Gender Pay Gap Washington
- This session [SB5182](#) will be introduced to increasing equitable gender representation on corporate boards, and bills to fill in the gap in legislation including childcare, family leave.