WASHINGTON STATE • 5TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

State Representative Chad Magendanz

2016 LEGISLATIVE REVIEW

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COMMITTEES:

- Education (Ranking Member)
- Appropriations
- Technology and Economic Development

HOW TO STAY CONNECTED:

- leg.wa.gov
- tvw.org
- fiscal.wa.gov

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES:

- Provide students with a world-class education
- Empower families and strengthen communities
- Protect taxpayers and hold government accountable

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your 5th District state representative!

Since joining the Legislature, my goals have remained the same: providing every student with the opportunity to succeed, minimizing tax burdens, protecting our environment and strengthening the economy.

Education is a powerful tool for economic development. Advocating for children, preparing them for well-paying jobs through education, training and new technologies are my passions. As a former president of the Issaquah School Board, I am encouraged that many of my colleagues in Olympia, on both sides of the aisle, worked hard to produce and approve a balanced budget that provides for a significant overall increase in education funding. We have invested $4.7 billion in the last four years, a 36 percent overall increase.

It was disappointing an extra 20 days was required to pass the supplemental operating, capital and transportation budgets this year. But the good news is we are in a much better position to continue making significant improvements in our education system in 2017.

We live in one of the greatest places in Washington to work and raise a family. Serving you is one of the best ways I know how to give back to this wonderful community. I am committed to creating policy solutions for today and the future. This legislative review highlights some of my work and accomplishments. If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you again for the opportunity to serve you!

Chad Magendanz, State Representative

Education — our paramount duty

Our paramount duty is to provide every child with a quality education. Since the state Supreme Court's *McCleary* ruling in 2012, education champions on both sides of the aisle have led the effort to increase K-12 education funding, making Washington one of the top states in the nation for increased education spending.

The results of this responsible policymaking include a commitment to K-3 class size reductions, address teacher shortages, expand full day kindergarten, fully fund teacher COLAs, and provide for a significant increase for materials, supplies and operating costs.

Plus, we lowered tuition at our public colleges and universities and made large investments in early learning.

Committed to taking the steps necessary to fully fund education

My proposal outlining the next steps needed to fully fund basic education was the first bill signed by the governor this year. This bill reaffirms the Legislature's commitment to fully fund staff compensation before the 2018 deadline set by the court. Currently, school districts are forced to rely on their locally approved school levies for stable funding. Reform is needed so schools are able to use their local levy dollars for enrichments, rather than basic education expenses.

I sponsored the companion bill to Senate Bill 6195 that establishes the Education Funding Task Force to find a solution to the overreliance on school district local levies and make recommendations on compensation reforms so districts can recruit and retain high-quality staff. Step one is determining the total amount of the state's fiscal responsibility.

In the next few months, a group of independent analysts will be collecting information from school districts on their funding sources and expenditures for teacher compensation, basic education, and enrichments. By collecting and analyzing this data, including money being used from local levies, lawmakers will have what they need to tackle the remaining items of education funding reform.

Would you consider a music teacher an enhancement? How about a football coach who also teaches math? What part of their pay is basic education and what part is an enrichment?

This data collection will help to determine the total amount of the state's fiscal obligation.

Victory for public charter school children and their families

For the first time since 1981, a bill became law in Washington without the governor's signature. Washington has now rejoined 42 other states in offering public charter schools. This is great news for the 1,100 charter school students, their families and the many lawmakers who have been fighting to save these schools since the state Supreme Court ruled them unconstitutional last September. It was an incredible honor to sponsor the companion legislation to Senate Bill 6194, which reestablishes the Charter School Commission and funds the schools through the Opportunity Pathways account, a constitutionally unrestricted source of revenue.

Charter schools are a great option for kids with different learning styles and challenges. These schools narrow the opportunity gap and strengthen our entire education system.

Addressing teacher shortages

Many public schools have difficulty finding qualified, permanent staff and substitute teachers. New K-3 classes, the mass retirement of baby boomers, retirements deferred through the recession and a declining output of our state colleges of education all contributed to the current teacher shortage.

This session I co-sponsored the companion legislation to Senate Bill 6455 signed into law to help recruit and retain teachers, remove barriers for out-of-state teachers to be certified in Washington, expand scholarship opportunities and create alternative routes to certification for experienced workers looking for a second career.

Alternative routes for teacher certification are an ideal way for individuals with established careers and real-life experience to enter the teaching profession. In fact, my father did it. Also, retired teachers can now work as substitutes without putting their retirement benefits in jeopardy. By allowing them to return to the classroom, we can help students and school districts while still looking for qualified, permanent staff.

Vision screening bill approved

Routine vision screening for school children is changing as a result of a bill I sponsored. Many experts believe near-vision problems adversely affect a child's ability to read, learn and succeed in life. Screening solely for distance visual impairments may miss as much as 40 percent of children with potential vision problems.

These near-vision problems adversely affect a students' ability to function and enjoy learning. In fact, according to the National Institute for Literacy, vision deficits account for illiteracy in 25 percent of students, 66 percent of adults, 70 percent of juvenile delinquents and 90 percent of prison inmates.

I was glad to sponsor the companion legislation to Senate Bill 6245, signed into law this year, adding near-vision to the screening process for students in every school district throughout Washington.

State Representative Chad Magendanz

The Washington Cybercrime Act

Cybercrimes include a variety of actions from identity theft, spoofing and to intentionally committing trespass by gaining access into a computer system. Damage or disruption to computer systems and networks cost individuals and companies billions of dollars every year.

This year, I sponsored the Washington Cybercrime Act signed into law on April 1. House Bill 2375 gives prosecutors the tools necessary to punish cybercrime activity and helps to protect increasingly vulnerable digital communication systems from attack. The new law updates 20th century statutes to prosecute 21st century crimes, such as denial of service attacks, data theft, spoofing and tampering.

Responsible budgets approved

The Legislature approved recent state budgets with strong bipartisan support. Despite proposals for large tax increases on businesses, capital gains, and other items and services, those tax increases were not included in the final operating budget. Education now accounts for 48 percent of the state budget—the largest portion dedicated to education in decades. These increases and others were made thanks to fiscal responsibility and a recovering economy.

Balanced budget highlights

- ✓ K-3 school class-size reduction
- ✓ Funding for all-day kindergarten
- ✓ Charter school funding
- ✓ Professional development for paraeducators
- ✓ Addresses teacher shortages
- ✓ Employee cost of living adjustments
- ✓ New investments in early learning
- ✓ Reduction in college tuition
- ✓ Increased investments to public safety
- ✓ Enhancements for state parks
- ✓ Mental health program reforms
- ✓ Wildfire recovery funding and response
- ✓ Incentives for solar and renewable energy
- ✓ State Patrol pay increase

Helping you stay informed

Visit my website to watch the latest Magendanz Minute video or listen to my audio on education and other legislative topics.

I work for you

Please remember I work for you throughout the year, not just when the Legislature is in session. Please call or visit my office any time you need assistance with state government, or have comments, questions or concerns regarding legislation.

2016 Successes

Here is a list of bills I co-sponsored, amended or helped through the legislative process.

Data privacy

- ✓ Senate Bill 6528 – The Cybersecurity Jobs Act will put in place a process for detecting and responding to security incidents, including any accidental or deliberate events that result in unauthorized access, loss, disruption or destruction of communication and information technology resources. This will help the private sector develop assets to protect industries and critical infrastructure from cyberattacks.
- ✓ House Bill 2875 – Creates the office of data privacy, protection and access equity to serve as a central point of contact for state agencies on matters involving data privacy and protection.
- ✓ House Bill 1078 – Strengthens data breach notification requirements to better safeguard personal information, prevents identity theft and ensures the attorney general receives notification when breaches occur.

Education

- ✓ House Bill 1541 – Aimed at narrowing the opportunity gap by addressing structural issues in the educational system that disproportionately affect students of color.
- ✓ House Bill 2360 – Eliminates a layer of outdated bureaucracy by repealing the Quality Education Council and the technical funding work group overseen by the council.
- ✓ House Bill 2449 – The Keeping Kids in School Act puts in place consistent practices and procedures to help prevent truancy.

Energy and environment

- ✓ Senate Bill 6248/House Bill 2525 – The Coal Transition Act puts regulatory framework in place for the decommissioning and remediation of a coal-fired electric generation plant in Colstrip, Montana that provides electricity for thousands of customers in the Puget Sound area.

Caring for our most vulnerable

- ✓ House Bill 2726 – Creates a consumer protection measure which will provide increased transparency and oversight of continuing care retirement communities (CCRCs).

Public safety

- ✓ House Bill 2410 – Helping to combat gun violence, this bill requires a person to register as a felony firearm offender if convicted or found "not guilty by reason of insanity" of a felony firearm offense involving sexual motivation, a crime against a child or a serious violent offense.

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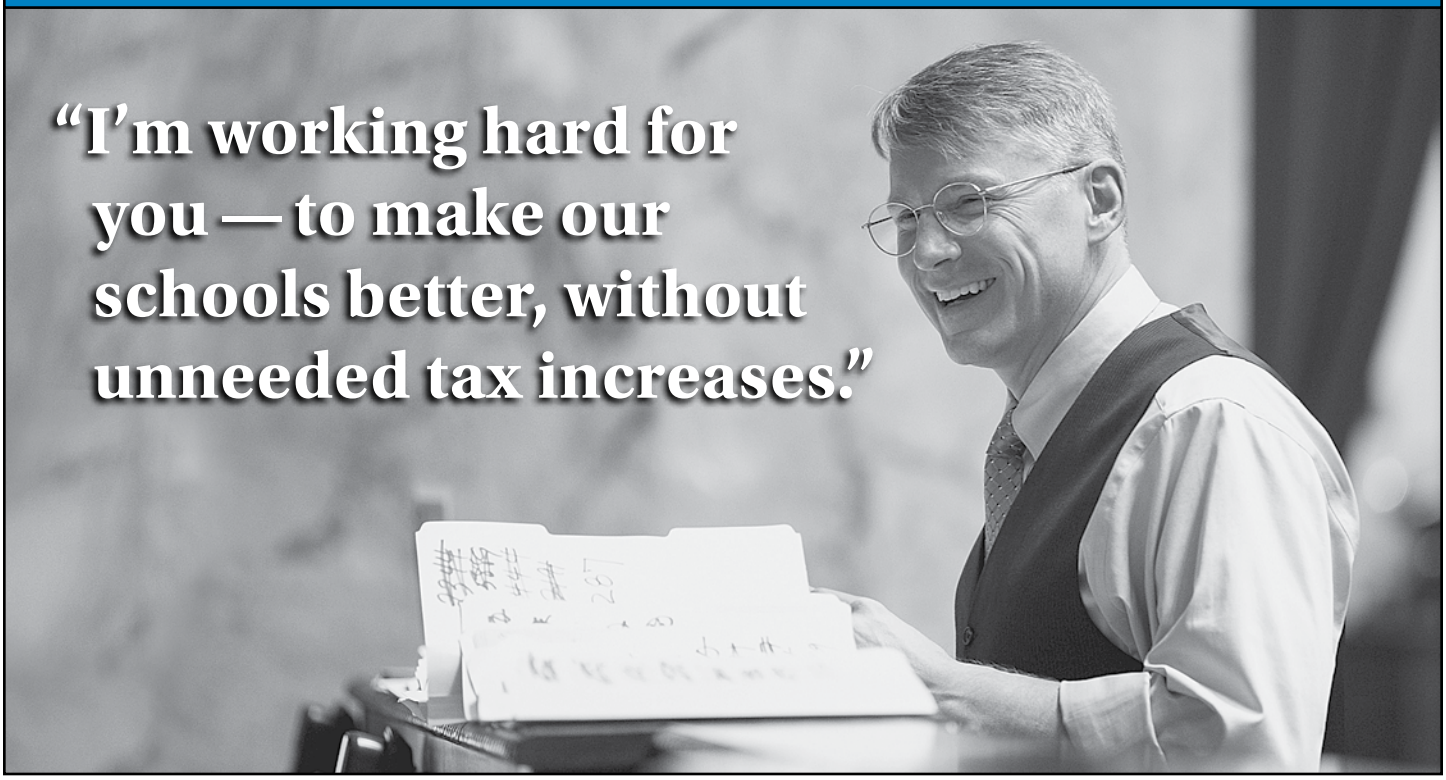
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