

2016 Legislative Report

Melanie Stambaugh

25th District • State Representative

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Over the past two years, the face of state government has changed. When I took the oath of office to become a state representative at the age of 24, I knew we were making history.

My focus is people, not politics. I have welcomed parents, students, educators, business owners, young professionals, tradespeople, veterans and retirees into my office to share their needs, experiences, and vision for our communities and state. Working with Republicans and Democrats, I have crafted important legislation for our district. From committee work to speaking on the House floor, to watching the governor sign our bills into law, together, we are making a difference.

The 2015-16 legislative sessions were historic in many ways:

- Record investments in education the past two sessions, dedicating \$1.3 billion for K-12 schools;
- Historic tuition reductions for college students, along with \$283 million for our higher education system;
- Increased early-learning opportunities, contributing \$94 million to passing the Early Start Act; and
- Secured funding in the transportation package passed last year to complete State Route 167 to I-5 and the Port of Tacoma.

I am confident we can make even greater impacts for our community and state. Please contact me if you would like to share your perspective, ideas or concerns.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve our community in the Washington State Legislature.

Sincerely,



Melanie Stambaugh
State Representative
25th Legislative District



REP. MELANIE STAMBAUGH

HOUSE COMMITTEES:

- Education
(Assistant Ranking Member)
- Higher Education
- Rules
- Transportation

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Transportation Focus

I have been committed to completing State Route 167, improving our transportation infrastructure, creating new jobs, and improving freight mobility between our port and businesses.

Increased safety on our local roads and less time in traffic for our commuters and families is important to me. I supported pay increases for Washington State Patrol troopers to maintain safety on our roads.

Serving on the House Transportation Committee, I have had the opportunity to work on legislation to improve our state's transportation infrastructure.

The 2015-16 transportation budgets included funds to:

- ✓ Complete State Route 167
- ✓ Widen I-5 at Joint Base Lewis-McChord
- ✓ Design expansion of Traffic Avenue Bridge at State Route 410 Interchange
- ✓ Prioritize congestion relief on state highways through transportation reforms

“Thank you...
@ M_Stambaugh_...
for funding in the state
budget to fix Traffic Ave/
SR410... #Progress”

2015-17 Capital Budget: Local Projects Funded

The Legislature passed a \$3.9 billion capital budget during the 2015 session and a \$169 million supplemental capital budget this session. The capital budget is the “bricks and mortar” budget for the state, and is used to fund long-term construction needs. The budgets we passed include \$875 million for class-size reduction, \$27 million for increased mental-health bed capacity, \$12 million for wildfire hazard reduction efforts, and many additional investments important for our communities and the state.

In the 25th District, the capital budgets funded the following projects and renovations:

- **\$5 million** to rebuild Clarks Creek Hatchery downtown Puyallup;
- **\$2 million** for construction of the new Franklin Pierce Early Learning Center;
- **\$1.2 million** to develop Brookville Gardens in Fife;
- **\$500,000** for LID improvements at WSU-Puyallup; and
- **\$500,000** to expand the Puyallup Riverwalk Trail.

The following projects are not located in the 25th District, but are important to our local area:

- **\$16 Million** for University of Washington Tacoma's Urban Solutions Center;
- **\$750,000** for the new Stan and Joan Cross Park in Frederickson; and
- **\$200,000** for the construction of the Asia Pacific Cultural Center in Ruston.

Investments in Early Learning

At the beginning of my first legislative session, Franklin Pierce School District approached me with a vision to create a new early learning center that would provide educational opportunities and support for our youngest and most at-risk students.

I advocated for funding for the Franklin Pierce Early Learning Center, garnered support from fellow legislators, and secured \$2 million in the 2015 capital budget. This success led to an expedited construction plan where businesses and community partners joined together to complete the facility in January 2016.

I've seen our young students play in the classrooms, gain social skills and fall in love with learning. This investment is changing lives. From our youngest learners to our college graduates, I am confident making deliberate and impactful investments in education builds healthy communities and a strong future.



It was a great honor to be named the Washington Student Association's Legislator of the Year for my work to make higher education institutions safer, more affordable, and more accessible for students.

Rep. Stambaugh receiving the 2015 'Legislator of the Year' award from students with the Washington Student Association.

K-12 Education

As the assistant ranking member on the House Education Committee, I have been committed to increasing school safety, expanding social and emotional skills training, and providing opportunities and stability for our most vulnerable students. I have visited classrooms to meet with students, educators, parents, and administrators to gain the information needed to replicate successes and find solutions to challenges at our schools.

Education is my top priority. Over the past two sessions, the Legislature has made record investments in our K-12 education system, including funds for K-3 class-size reductions and overdue cost-of-living adjustments for our teachers. We are now dedicating 48 percent of the state's budget to improving education in Washington state.

I will continue devoting my efforts to fully funding education, attracting future educators to our classrooms, increasing career and technical opportunities for students, evaluating standardized testing, and navigating the recent changes in the federal Every Student Succeeds Act.

Higher Education

As a member of the House Higher Education Committee, my focus has been on increasing college affordability and accessibility. In 2015, the Legislature made history by reducing college tuition for the first time since the 1970s. I have visited multiple college campuses across our state to collaborate with student leadership, faculty and administrators, and I continually hear a resounding "thank you!" from students and parents for our work in reducing tuition.

In each of the past two sessions, I introduced bills to reduce the cost of textbooks. My bills would create open educational resource grant programs at four-year institutions, utilizing technology resources to provide low-cost alternatives to traditional textbooks. Although these bills did not become law, I will continue working to make college more affordable for our young people and families.

Another issue I'm passionate about is ending sexual violence on our state's college campuses. In 2015, the Legislature created the Campus Sexual Violence Taskforce. I have been involved in the task force – establishing best practices for sexual violence education, prevention, intervention, and recovery programs on college campuses across the state.

"Rep. Stambaugh has been a champion for students across the state since she joined the legislature."

-E. Strode, Washington State University

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25th District • State Representative

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Sponsored Legislation

Protecting Vulnerable Adults – House Bill 1316.

Protecting vulnerable adults from physical, psychological or financial abuse.

Safeguarding Children’s Privacy – House Bill 1554.

In conjunction with the City of Fife, this bill was crafted to protect the privacy of children in public records requests.

Increasing Women’s Health Awareness – House Bill 2681.

Increasing awareness for women that birth control can be prescribed by a pharmacist.

Rehabilitation for Juvenile Offenders – House Bill 2906.

Adding rehabilitation and reintegration as goals in the state’s Juvenile Justice Act.

Reducing Maternal Mortality – House Bill 2885. Its companion, Senate Bill 6534, was signed into law.

The bill establishes a maternal mortality review commission to develop solutions to reduce the rising maternal mortality rate in our state.

Resources for Homeless Youth – House Bill 1682.

I co-sponsored this legislation with Rep. Jake Fey, D-Tacoma. It creates competitive grant programs that will connect homeless youth to stable housing and increase education outcomes for students.



Rep. Stambaugh speaking
on the House Floor