

K-12 Sex Education, Affirmative Consent, and Healthy Relationships

Lack of education around affirmative consent perpetuates rape culture, victim blaming, and a decreases accountability. While universities try to educate new students about the importance of consent from all parties involved in sexual activity, and healthy relationship practices it is too late to try to embed these important behaviors in young adults. For this reason, the WSA supports mandated comprehensive sex-education in our K-12 system that informs students on the need to obtain consent, and be a part of relationships that are based on mutual respect and affection and are free from violence, coercion, and intimidation;

Food and Housing Insecurity Study

National studies have shown that students on college campuses are facing food and housing insecurity at an alarming rate - one study indicating that 36% of students have experienced food or housing insecurity in the last 30 days. Students who are going through these difficult times have unique needs based on the degree of food or housing insecurity that they face. Students are asking that the state legislature commission a study that will gather data on the number of undergraduate, graduate, and professional students currently facing food and/or housing insecurity, analyze the successes of campus programs or other state's efforts, and offer policy recommendations to assist students in need.

Eligibility and Working Requirement for Working Connections Child Care

25% of the student body in Washington are working parents and deserve access and increased affordability for child care services. However, childcare can often exceed the cost of tuition for some student parents. Currently, eligibility for the Working Connections Child Care (WCCC) subsidies are only available to a student seeking a two-year degree and additionally requires that a student work at least 20 hours a week. We believe that students shouldn't be forced to work 20 hours while going to school and raising a family. The WSA advocates for the work requirement for the WCCC program to be removed and undergraduate and graduate students to access.

Support for Survivors of Sexual Assault

An estimate of one in every five womxn are sexually assaulted while they are in college and only around 13% are able to report due to personal or institutional barriers. The WSA recognizes that this issue is not one that exclusively impacts women and folks, and that male-identified and gender non-conforming folks also experience sexual and domestic violence. The WSA is urging the state legislature to increase for survivors of sexual assault by codifying guidelines laid out in the 2011 "Dear Colleague" letter from the Department of Education.

Interdisciplinary Training of Healthcare Professional Students

Nurses, Physicians, and Pharmacists are all trained in blood pressure monitoring, blood glucose, and cholesterol screening, immunizations, medication counseling, and so much more. Students lead this effort and have found that their limiting factor to how much they can work with multidisciplinary student teams and serve our communities is finding enough professionals from each discipline to supervise. This bill will help multidisciplinary students have increased opportunities to learn how to work together, serve our communities, and more efficiently utilize the resources within our university and health care systems.

Veteran Tuition Waivers

Currently, student veterans who receive a general discharge under honorable conditions are commonly are ineligible to receive the educational benefits that other veterans are able to. Additionally, a 200 unit cap on academic credits prevents student veterans from attaining a four-year degree. Our legislative priority aims to: Increase tuition waiver from 200 to 250 credits, and expands the definition of "eligible veteran or National Guard member" for the purposes of tuition waivers at the public institutions of higher education to veteran or National Guard members who received a general discharge under honorable conditions.

Support for Homeless Students

Native American Tuition Waivers

Student Loan Relief and Reform Act

The number of borrowers age 60 and over has increased by over 35 percent in five years. Women hold nearly two-thirds of outstanding national student-loan debt. Students from low-income backgrounds are more likely to need to borrow and have higher default rates. Black graduates average \$7,000 more debt than white classmates, while Hispanic borrowers are more than twice as likely to default. The Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC) would be authorized to contract with up to five private financial institutions to refinance student loans on more-favorable terms by leveraging interest rate buy downs and loan loss reserve coverage.

Prepaid Postage

Faculty Compensation and Funding Split

Legislative Agenda 2019-21 Biennium - Internal WSA Notes

- State Need Grant Expansion and Entitlement
- K-12 Sex Education, Affirmative Consent, and Healthy Relationships
- Food and Housing Insecurity Study
- Undocumented Loan Program
- Eligibility and Working Requirement for Working Connections Child Care
- Title IX
- Interdisciplinary Training of Healthcare Professional Students
- Faculty Compensation and Funding Split
- Veteran Tuition Waivers (one-pager tbd)
- Support for Homeless Students (one-pager tbd)
- Native American Tuition Waivers (one-pager tbd)
- Student Loan Refinance (Liias)
- Prepaid Postage

Anticipated Legislation

- Veteran Tuition Waivers (one-pager tbd)
- Support for Homeless Students (one-pager tbd)
- Native American Tuition Waivers (one-pager tbd)
- Student Loan Refinance (Liias)
- Prepaid Postage

To be determined:

- Increased Mental Health Access, Diversity, and Outreach
 - Campus Voter Registration
 - Graduate Bill of Rights
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State Need Grant Expansion and Entitlement

State Need Grant is the state's largest aid program, and its reach extends from traditional students to working-age adults, from certificate programs through baccalaureate degrees. With an investment of \$18 million during the 2018 session, Washington State moved closer to fully funding the SNG last year and we applaud those efforts. The WSA aims to ensure the following:

- a) full funding happens by or before 2021 and aid the 18,000 students who are left unfunded
- b) the SNG has secure funding for the SNG by making the program an entitlement
- c) lastly, we are pushing for eligibility for the SNG to expand to from 70% of the median family income to 100% MFI.

More info:

Q. How much funding is provided to SNG?

A. In 2016-17, \$287 million was appropriated to SNG to serve an estimated 69,000 students. At the time there were about 24,000 students underserved by the SNG.

Q. Which institutions participate in SNG?

A. Currently more than 60 institutions—public and private two- and four-year institutions—are approved to participate in SNG. The requirements are set in statute, and WSAC reviews new applications to participate in state financial aid.

Updates:

- Governor Inslee budget proposal includes full funding by 2021
 - 6,000 students funded in 2019-20, 12,000 funded in 2020-2021
- Representative Gerry Pollet bill to accelerate funding and expand MFi to 100%

K-12 Sex Education, Affirmative Consent, and Healthy Relationships

Sexual assault is an issue that unfortunately affects a large percentage of students on college campuses. While students and administration attempt to educate students about the need for consent from all participants in interpersonal relationships, it is not enough. We rely on a few pieces of training to ground students in the importance of consent when we should be reaching these students far before they set foot on our campuses. Mandating that all public K-12 schools embed new age-appropriate content on affirmative consent, healthy relationships, and sexual assault prevention will bring positive change for our campus communities and our broader society. Washington can be the 9th state in the nation to implement this kind of curriculum and lead in the fight against sexual assault.

Updates:

- Planned Parenthood is working a bill that would:
 - Making sex-ed mandatory for all public schools (including public charter schools); there would still be a process where parents/guardians could 'opt out' their students.
 - Highlighting issues such as affirmative consent, bystander intervention, healthy relationships, recognizing and avoiding intimate partner violence, etc. (we've heard from teens that they feel these issues need more attention, particularly in light of #MeToo, etc.);
 - Enhanced enforcement mechanisms to ensure that schools are providing meaningful sexual health education and that appropriate information is being reported back to OSPI.
- Separate effort to only include consent education. OSPI meeting scheduled for Friday.

Food and Housing Insecurity Study

National studies have shown that students on college campuses are facing food and housing insecurity at an alarming rate - one study indicating that 36% of students have experienced food or housing insecurity in the last 30 days. Students who are going through these difficult times have unique needs based on the degree of food or housing insecurity that they face. Some students are either on the brink of homelessness and have to choose to pay rent or buy groceries. Other students could be cramming into houses with extra housemates and forced to live in sub-par housing units in order to save money. While some campuses have their own efforts to tackle this issue, there is not a solidified approach to solving this problem. Students are asking that the state legislature commission a study that will gather data on the number of undergraduate, graduate, and professional students currently facing food and/or housing

insecurity, analyze the successes of campus programs or other state's efforts, and offer policy recommendations to assist students in need.

Scope of the study:

- Identify the numbers of students who are facing food and housing insecurity both at community colleges and public four-year universities. Some campuses have run their own studies but I want this to help inform a change in financial aid packages that might grow in include help to buy groceries or provide emergency funding.
- What are the barriers to addressing food insecurity on college campuses?
- Identify what are the projects that are currently being carried out at our campuses and how effective have they been in combating food and housing insecurity on campus. In other words, what is working and what is not.
- Identify what are the projects that are currently being carried by the state or federal government that campuses can tap into or utilize more.
- Work with statewide partners to identify what are the short and long term and investments that can be made to solve this issue. Some campuses have programs aimed at solving some of the symptoms of this issue and we want to make sure that we are not reinventing the wheel and invest further in successful programs. I am also going to be reaching out to the Council of Presidents and the SBCTC for their support and feedback.

Updates

- The College Success Foundation has signed on to the plan. Will assist in our efforts.
- Looking for a freshman sponsor in the House and the Senate.

Undocumented Student Loan Pilot Program

With recent threats to the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, we subsequently see the presence and retention of our undocumented students under attack. With no clear indication from the federal government that DACA students will be protected, the WSA is advocating for increased protections and financial aid programs for our undocumented student population here in Washington State. The WSA is asking the state legislature to allocate \$500,000 to create a state-funded loan program specifically for undocumented students to access which would create a reliable way for students to pay for higher education expenses.

Updates:

- Senator Marko Liias thinks it is possible to get this done. First thought to include it in his student loan refinancing bill.
- Support from Senator Saldana as well.
- Looking for a House Sponsor - Potentially Rep. Gregerson or a freshman sponsor.
- Gathering data from WSAC
- Fiscal note would be \$500,000 plus administrative costs
- The biggest concern is privacy and data

Eligibility and Working Requirement for Working Connections Child Care

25% of the student body in Washington are working parents and deserve access and increased affordability for child care services. However, childcare can often exceed the cost of tuition for some student parents. Currently, eligibility for the Working Connections Child Care (WCCC) subsidies are only available to a student seeking a two-year degree and additionally requires that a student work at least 20 hours a week. On-campus jobs that are most accessible to students and accommodate class schedules are limited to only 19.5 hours per week, which automatically exclude student parents from these benefits. We believe that students shouldn't be forced to work a minimum amount of hours while going to school and taking care of a family. The WSA advocates for the work requirement for the WCCC program to be removed and undergraduate and graduate students to access.

Update:

- Washington State Association of Head Start and ECEAP pushing for bill that removes the working requirement. Limited the subsidy to only community colleges.
- Concern over the fiscal impact of including 4-year campuses.
- The total fiscal note would be \$120M increase. Doubling the amount of existing subsidy.

Title IX Protections

The APA is the guiding law that outlines the adjudication process universities must follow in student conduct proceedings. The recommendation to exempt the universities from the APA comes from a December 2015 report on Sexual Assault Prevention that the Council of Presidents helped facilitate.

The WSA and the task force agree that we need to ensure that student conduct matters are adjudicated in a timely, fair, and equitable manner that aligns with the institution's educational goals and purposes - especially when these matters are related to sexual assault conduct matters.

WSA Goals for Exemption from the APA:

- Consistent adjudication models across the public four-year universities.

- Have model operate less like a court.
- Reduce the participation of attorneys.
- Have timely investigations and reviews.
- Do not allow direct cross-examination or in-person hearings.
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Legal Voice is pushing a bill with Representative Pellicciotti that would:

- Allow campuses to lead investigation for incidents that occur on and off campus
- Mandate that investigations be completed in 60 days
- Both respondent and complainant are allowed to appeal a decision
- Increased language access for all correspondence
- Define affirmative consent
- Violation of an institution's policy can allow a person aggrieved by the violation to bring a private cause of action
- End of the year summary by each institution w/ summary of complaints

Interdisciplinary Training of Healthcare Professional Students

Nurses, Physicians, and Pharmacists are all trained in blood pressure monitoring, blood glucose, and cholesterol screening, immunizations, medication counseling, and so much more. WSU Health Science students have served Spokane's underserved populations and surrounding rural communities with more than 50 health fairs and immunization clinics throughout the past year, students lead this effort and have found that their limiting factor to how much they can work with multidisciplinary student teams and serve our communities is finding enough professionals from each discipline to supervise. This bill will help multidisciplinary students have increased opportunities to learn how to work together, serve our communities, and more efficiently utilize the resources within our university and health care systems.

Update:

- Bill was well received and well on its way to gather more and more co-sponsors.
- Following WSU Health Sciences lead on this bill.

Free Menstrual Hygiene Products

Students are facing increasing costs of tuition, books, housing, and food. Students who need access to menstrual products bear additional costs that can be a further barrier to affording college. The cost can be especially troublesome for low-income students who are already financially challenged. Additionally, students might not have immediate access to these amenities on their campus which can disrupt their academic success. The WSA supports the

reintroduction of HB 2863, from the 2018 legislative session, which would have made menstrual products free and available to students attending our any public institution of higher education.

Update:

- No major pushback from legislators
- Seeking a freshman sponsor
- Representative Kristine Reeves has introduced legislation [HB 1053](#) that would remove the tax on all menstrual hygiene products in WA. [Fiscal note of \\$12M.](#)

[Faculty Compensation and Funding Split - Link here for CoP Letter to Governor Inslee](#)

[Veteran Tuition Waivers - HB 2464 \(2018\)](#)

Currently, student veterans who receive a general discharge under honorable conditions are commonly are ineligible to receive the educational benefits that other veterans are able to. Additionally, a 200 unit cap on academic credits prevents student veterans from attaining a four-year degree. Our legislative priority aims to:

- Increases from 200 to 250, the tuition waiver credits that a child, spouse, or domestic partner of an eligible veteran or National Guard member who became totally disabled, a prisoner of war, missing in action, or who lost his or her life while serving may receive.
- Expands the definition of "eligible veteran or National Guard member" for the purposes of tuition waivers at the public institutions of higher education to veteran or National Guard members who received a general discharge under honorable conditions.

[Increased Mental Health Access, Diversity, and Outreach](#)

Due to staff shortages, students on our college campuses can be told to wait days if not weeks before they are able to see a mental health professional on-campus. Wait times can be as long as a month depending on the time of year. We can not let students wait out a crisis and let their academic success dwindle due to staff shortages. In order to increase access to this critical service, students are calling on the Washington State Legislature to boost funding to university mental health centers. Increased funding will help campuses hire new counselors, decrease patient wait times, and decrease the number of students referred to off-campus providers.

Updates:

- There have not been solid commitments by legislators to specifically include mental health funding for our public universities.
- Our ask needs to be data-driven. Guided by the specific needs of your campuses. Liaisons check in with legislative directors about campus mental health asks.