

## Legislative Updates

### Working Families Tax Credit

- **HB 1477:** Administrative & Technical
  - Ensure all filing statuses can access the credit by including Married Filing Separately tax filers, a tax status that is used by many survivors of domestic violence (who often rely on this status to avoid further financial abuse from a partner).
  - Expand the time families have to claim their WFTC payments from one year (current statute) to align with the IRS's standard of 3 years.
  - Create a biennial Legislative Reporting Requirement for the Dept. of Revenue on the progress of the program.
  - Scheduled for Executive Meeting in Finance Committee February 9<sup>th</sup>
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- **HB 1075 | SB 5249:** Eligibility Expansion – Hearing in Finance Committee
  - Whether you are a college student or working senior, the need is great for cash assistance. This bill would expand the WFTC to an estimated 210,000 more Washingtonians. More information here:  
[https://action.momsrising.org/sign/working\\_families\\_tax\\_credit\\_washington\\_2023/](https://action.momsrising.org/sign/working_families_tax_credit_washington_2023/)
  - HB 1075 Scheduled for Executive Meeting in House Finance Committee February 9<sup>th</sup>

### Washington Futures Fund

- **HB 1094 | SB 5125:** Establishes the Washington Futures Fund
  - For every child born under Apple Health, Washington would allocate \$4000 to an investment fund managed by the State Investment Board. Eligible Washingtonians would receive a disbursement from the fund that can be used for buying a home, pursuing post-secondary education, or starting a small business.  
<https://www.tre.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/WFF-One-Pager-2022-2023-updated-1-3-23.pdf>
  - SB 5125 was voted out of Senate Human Services and referred to Senate Ways & Means, and HB 1094 was voted out of House Human Services, Youth & Early Learning.
  - Prosperity Now has created a helpful action alert on this bill:  
<https://www.votervoice.net/prosperitynow/Campaigns/100359/Respond>.

### Guaranteed Basic Income

- **HB 1045:** would fund a statewide Guaranteed Basic Income Washington State pilot program that would be disbursed to as many as 7,500 participants.
  - The resulting Evergreen Basic Income Trust builds on the work of previous cash assistance programs such as the Working Families Tax Credit, which have been proven to alleviate wealth disparities and help everyday Washingtonians make ends meet.
  - HB 1045 was heard and voted out of House Human Services, Youth & Learning and has been referred to House Appropriations

### Preventing Utility Shut-offs in Extreme heat

- **HB 1329 | SB 5366:** Prevents utility shut offs during extreme heat. These bills prevent utilities and landlords from terminating water or electric service when it is above 90 degrees just as the law currently prevents shut offs in very cold temperatures.

- HB 1329 was heard on both January 23<sup>rd</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> in House Environment & Energy.
- SB 5366 was heard in Senate Environment, Energy & Technology on January 31<sup>st</sup>

#### Preventing Predatory Rent

- **HB 1388:** Protects tenants by prohibiting predatory residential rent practices and by applying the consumer protection act to landlord-tenant acts.
  - Heard in the House Housing Committee and scheduled for executive session on February 9<sup>th</sup>

#### Advocacy Opportunities

- It Takes More Than Food to End Hunger: Collective Action Webinar: **February 2**, 4:30pm – 5:30pm
  - Northwest Harvest’s Advocacy Team is an integral part of our village. This department contributes tirelessly to maintaining and strengthening programs that support Washington residents’ basic needs. In addition to protecting and strengthening nutrition assistance programs such as SNAP, school meals, and WIC, the Advocacy Team supports our partners working on housing, healthcare, and income. Addressing the root causes of hunger ensures that families can afford to spend more of their income on food, thus reducing chronic hunger.
  - [Click here to register](#) – there’s still time :)
- Youth Advocacy Day: **February 3**
  - **Registration Closes Friday, January 27!**
  - We are unbelievably excited to be back together in person for our 2023 Youth Advocacy Day. Join youth, young adults, and allies impacted by foster care and homelessness as we spend the day encouraging elected leaders to support youth-inspired solutions. If you can't join us in person, we'll have virtual options available so that you can still participate.
  - <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/youth-advocacy-day-2023-tickets-477392292197?utm-campaign=social&utm-content=attendeeshare&utm-medium=discovery&utm-term=listing&utm-source=cp&aff=escb>
- Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence: **February 6-8**
  - Every year during the Washington State legislative session we host a statewide day of policy advocacy and action! Participants learn about budget and policy issues that impact survivors of domestic violence and connect with the legislators who represent them. This event is always a powerful way our community comes together to make a big impact for survivors of abuse!
  - <https://wscadv.org/projects/public-policy/advocacy-day/>