

WAISN'S 7TH ANNUAL

IMMIGRANT & REFUGEE ADVOCACY DAY

FEBRUARY 7, 2024

OLYMPIA, WA



ABOUT WAISN



Washington Immigrant Solidarity Network (WAISN) is a powerful coalition made up of over 400 immigrant and refugee rights organizations, labor unions, grassroots groups, and faith communities in Washington state. We are a multi-lingual, multicultural, multi-faith, and multi-issue network that supports and builds power for immigrants and refugees across the state through direct services, education, organizing, policy, advocacy, and funding.

Our organizing strategy educates and mobilizes statewide to uphold and defend the rights and dignity of all immigrants and refugees.

We are a queer and transgender immigrant-led nonprofit building a strong, connected, immigrant-led justice movement to dismantle oppressive systems and ensure a life of abundance for all immigrants.



About IRAD

This 7th annual IRAD grants us the opportunity to be present, visible, and vocal at the State Capitol and speak directly to our Representatives and Senators regarding our initiatives and their enduring importance.

We are taking action and demanding support from our legislators for this year's immigrant justice campaigns: Health Equity for Immigrants, Unemployment Insurance for Immigrant Undocumented Workers, and Support for Newly Arrived Migrants.



Land Acknowledgement

We gather on sacred indigenous lands belonging to the Coast Salish people of the Squaxin Island Tribe and Nisqually Indian Tribe. These peoples continue to struggle to exercise their sovereignty and self-determination due to U.S. settler colonialism. We also want to acknowledge immigration as an indigenous issue since many of the people that come to Turtle Island are indigenous to other places that have also been affected by Western imperialism and colonial expansion. We invite you to consider and reflect on the many legacies of violence, displacement, migration, and settlement that bring us together at this event.

An acknowledgment is a critical step toward honoring indigenous communities and forging solidarities across differences that focus on decolonization and reconciliation. We also want to encourage folks to support local indigenous resistances and, when possible, donate time and resources.

Learn more about indigenous groups of WA, please visit washingtontribes.org/the-tribes-of-washington

Thank you to our sponsors!



Marguerite
Casey
Foundation



盧勝彥佈施基金會
SHENG-YEN LU FOUNDATION



SCHEDULE

Location:

Olympia Ballroom
116 Legion Way SE

ARRIVAL & BREAKFAST**9:30AM - 10:00AM**

Welcome remarks

10:00AM - 10:35AM

Land acknowledgement

Policy overview

10:35AM - 11:15AM

Goals for legislative meetings

BREAK**11:30AM - 12:15PM**

Panel

12:15PM - 1:15PM

Lunch

1:15PM - 1:45PM

Prep for legislative meetings

EVENT SCHEDULE

Location:

Capitol Building
416 Sid Snyder Ave SW

MARCH & RALLY

1:45PM - 2:30PM

March to the Capitol from Olympia Ballroom

2:30PM - 4:00PM

Legislator meetings

4:00PM - 5:00PM

Rally

Group photo

5:00PM - 5:30PM

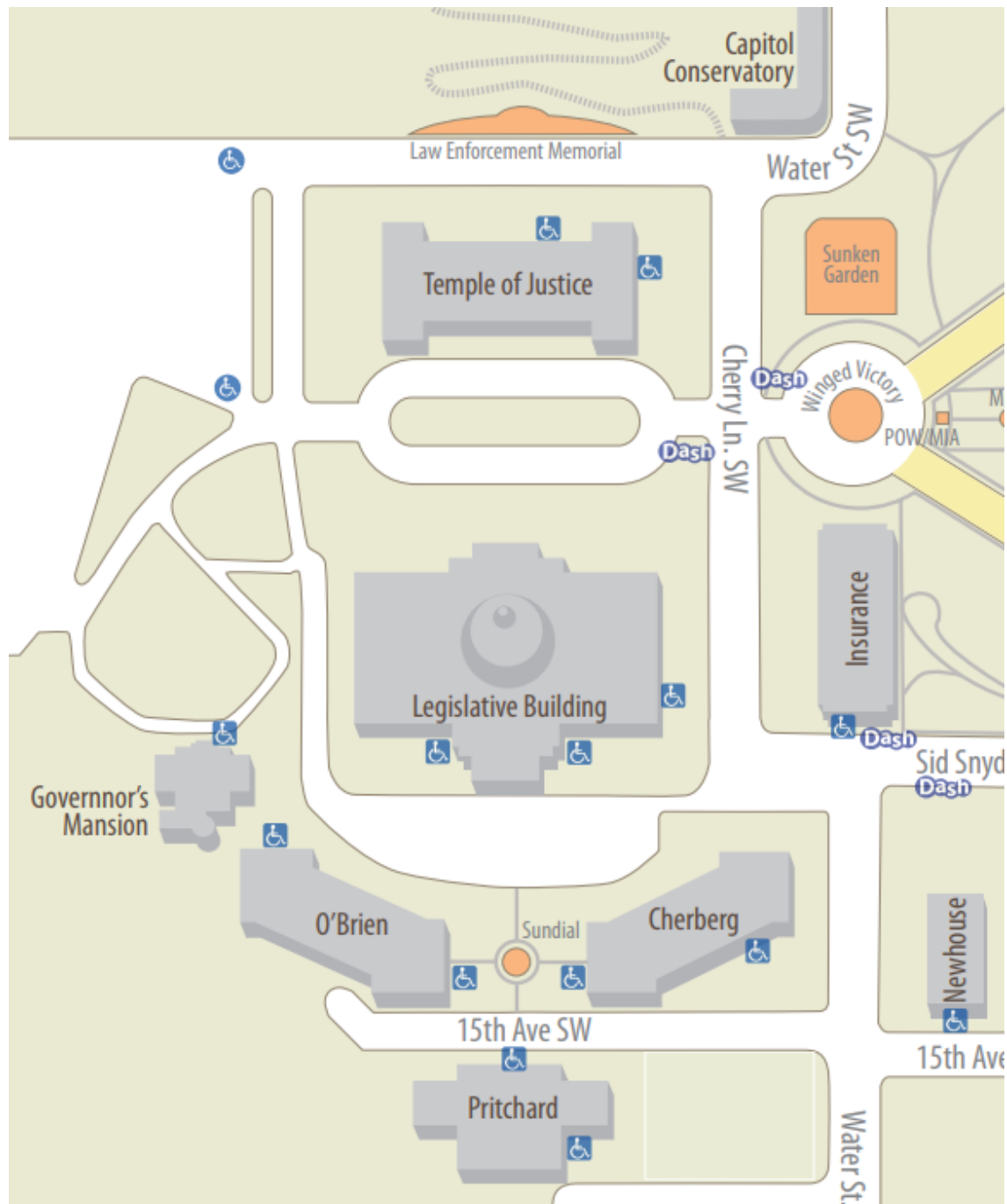
Walk back to Olympia ballroom

5:30PM - 6:00PM

Dinner

DEPARTURE

LEGISLATIVE BUILDINGS



Building abbreviations

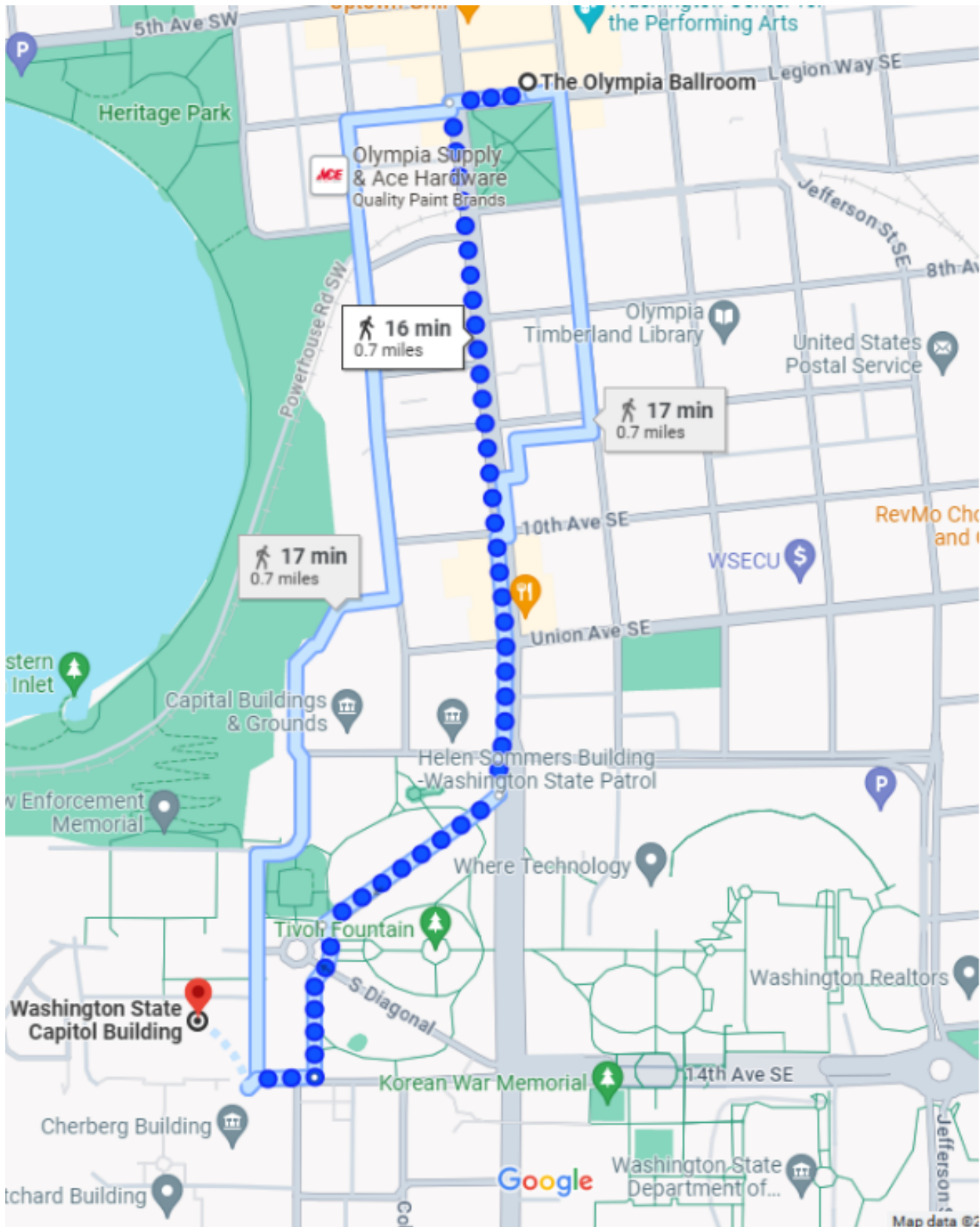
Modular building = LMB

O'Brien = JLOB

Cherberg = JAC

Legislative building = LEG

ROUTE: OLYMPIA BALLROOM TO CAPITOL



WAISN STEERING COMMITTEE

WAISN is proud to have a Steering Committee that reflects our multi-ethnic, multi-racial, multi-faith, and intersectional movement and membership — and that helps the WAISN team make policy decisions that reflect the values and goals of our network.

Our Steering Committee determines WAISN's policy platform for the legislative session based on identified gaps and needs for our immigrant and refugee communities.



CAIR
WASHINGTON

Northwest
**IMMIGRANT
RIGHTS**
Project



**Colectiva Legal
Del Pueblo**



**ENTRE
HERMANOS**
SEATTLE'S LATINO/LATINA ORGANIZATION



Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO

**Washington
State Labor
Council,
AFL-CIO**

WAISN'S 2024 CAMPAIGN PRIORITIES

Health Equity for Immigrants Budget Proviso

A person's right to health care access should not be dependent on their immigration status, the Legislature's budget, or political priorities each year. People should be able to access the care they need when they need it.

Last year, the legislature was able to expand health insurance subsidies to Washingtonians regardless of immigration status. It was also able to provide funding to expand Apple Healthcare to be able to provide services to some of our most vulnerable community members. However, Apple Health Expansion still needs significantly more funding to be able to provide services to all of our community members that need them. Current funding levels will only allow for up to 10,000 individuals to be covered by Apple Health - **that is not enough!**

We urge the Legislature to endorse the health equity budget proviso, which includes commitments to:

- Provide funding to cover 25,000 eligible individuals through the Apple Health expansion
- Support \$3 million of community-led enrollment assistance through trusted messenger community-based organizations and individuals
- Additional funding to support administrative costs and studies to ensure that all immigrants and refugees are able to get the healthcare and financial support that they need by 2025

Unemployment Insurance for Undocumented Workers HB 1095/SB 5109

More than 1.1 million WA state immigrants are key members of the workforce and community. Every worker deserves protection from a volatile employment system. Our Unemployment Insurance campaign aims to build a permanent unemployment system that acknowledges the labor of immigrant workers who are excluded from basic services simply due to their immigration status.

We urge the Legislature to pass HB 1095/SB 5109 in the 2024 legislative cycle, which will create a permanent unemployment insurance program for undocumented workers administered by the Employment Security Department (ESD) in Washington state.

This comprehensive system will mirror our current unemployment insurance program with the same benefits and auditing processes, and offer extra privacy protections. This includes:

- **Benefits:** A minimum flat amount of \$600/week (adjusting annually for cost of living), limited to 26 weeks a year, equivalent to federal supplemental pandemic unemployment insurance. This amount reflects the inequities faced by the over 270,000 undocumented people in WA state, including exclusion from all social safety net programs and structural barriers to adjusting immigration status.
- **Eligibility:** Workers who have lost employment due to no fault of their own and are unable to access regular unemployment benefits due to immigration status can access the program.
- **Application:** Eligible people can apply through the state unemployment insurance portal and be redirected to a specified program site. Community organizations will provide self-attestation and assistance.

Newly Arrived Migrants Budget Proviso

There are an estimated 14,000 migrants that have arrived in Washington State as asylum seekers in 2023, the highest in any year. They have fled violence and instability and deserve to be welcomed and supported. Community leaders, service providers and friendly neighbors have stepped up to support, however a lack of dedicated resources by the state has led to hundreds of asylum seekers having to sleep in tents or on the streets.

As more migrants continue to make WA their home, we urge the Washington State Legislature to endorse the newly arrived migrants budget proviso. **The budget proviso includes a commitment to provide \$25 million to provide housing, food assistance, transportation, education, legal support, employment support, and social service navigation.**

WAISN'S 2024 SECONDARY CAMPAIGNS

Keeping Communities Together (SB 5270)

Ensure that WA does not contribute to the separation of families by ending the use of WA State resources for deportation and guaranteeing that Washingtonians incarcerated by the Department of Corrections are treated equally regardless of where they happened to be born.

Traffic Safety for All (HB 1513 | SB 5572)

Ensure that law enforcement reduces unnecessary low-level stops and other interactions that disproportionately impact communities of color and low-income people and that often lead to criminal system entanglement, debt, bankruptcy, and interpersonal violence.

Keep Our Care Act (HB 1263)

Ensure health entity mergers, acquisitions, and contracting affiliations improve rather than harm access to affordable quality care within communities.

Pathways to the Future: Professional Licenses for Washington's Immigrants (HB 1889)

Clarify that all qualified applicants, regardless of citizenship status, can obtain any professional occupational licenses and allow applicants to use an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) instead of a Social Security number when applying for a professional or occupational license

WAISN'S 2024 TERTIARY CAMPAIGNS

KEEPING OUR COMMUNITIES SAFE

- AG Investigation and Reform Bill (HB 1445)
- Independent Investigations for Police Violence (HB 1579)
- Ending the Long-Term Use of Solitary Confinement (HB 1087 | SB 5135)
- Establishing Violent Extremism Commission (HB 1333)

MEETING OUR BASIC NEEDS

- Rent Stabilization Package (HB 2114 | SB 5961)
- Wealth Tax (HB 1473 | SB 5486)
- Permanent Fund for Housing Trust Fund (HB 2776 | SB 6191)
- Guaranteed Basic Income (HB 1045)
- Expanding Working Families' Tax Credit (HB 1075 | SB 5249)

PROTECTING OUR RIGHTS

- Nothing About Us Without Us (HB 1541 - SB 5616)
- Washington Promise Program (HB 2374)

INCREASING ACCESS AND AGENCY

- People's Privacy Act (HB 1616)
- Dual & Tribal Language Education (HB 1228)
- People Powered Elections WA (HB 1755)

POLICY PRIORITIES FAQs

What is the difference between a bill and a budget proviso?

A bill is a written proposal that can be drafted by an organization or elected official to create a new law to improve our society. A bill is first sponsored by a lawmaker and then assigned to a committee based on what it is proposing. The bill is reviewed and if selected, it will be assigned a public hearing where communities like us, can testify in support or in opposition of the bill. Legislators hear the debate before they make a decision. If legislators vote to support the bill, it will move into a different committee and the process for a hearing and vote will start again. Of all the bills introduced each session only 20% become laws in our state.

A budget proviso is a written request for funding for a particular program or policy that if passed, it is included in the state's budget. A budget proviso is submitted by a lawmaker for debate and discussion mostly behind closed doors. For the most part, leaders of two committees meet to negotiate the budget without community involvement. Unlike a bill process, there are only two public hearings and therefore only two opportunities for communities to share testimonies. After negotiations, the budget is voted on by both chambers of the legislature and is delivered to the Governor for signature.

What did we win in 2023 for Health Equity?

We won \$49.5 million for a medicaid equivalent program - now called Apple Health Expansion - and \$110 million for subsidies for eligible individuals including \$10 million for undocumented communities.

As of November 1st, 2023, Washington's immigrant and refugee residents are eligible to purchase health insurance on the Health Exchange Market, can apply for state subsidies and the expansion of Apple Health.

Why are we advocating for a budget proviso instead of a bill for health equity?

Our win from last year is not enough to cover all eligible immigrants in Washington. Our goal is to secure funding to cover **at least 25,000 people** for the Apple Health program by July of 2024.

When can I apply for the Apple Health program?

It will open in July 2024. However, due to limited funding at this time, there will be limited spots available. That is why we need to ask our legislators to increase funding for healthcare expansion!

What is unemployment insurance?

It is a program that provides workers with financial assistance due to job loss and while they are in between jobs. The current program excludes undocumented workers due to immigration status. Our bill seeks to create a program specific for undocumented immigrant workers.

Will SB5109/HB1095 increase costs or scrutiny for businesses?

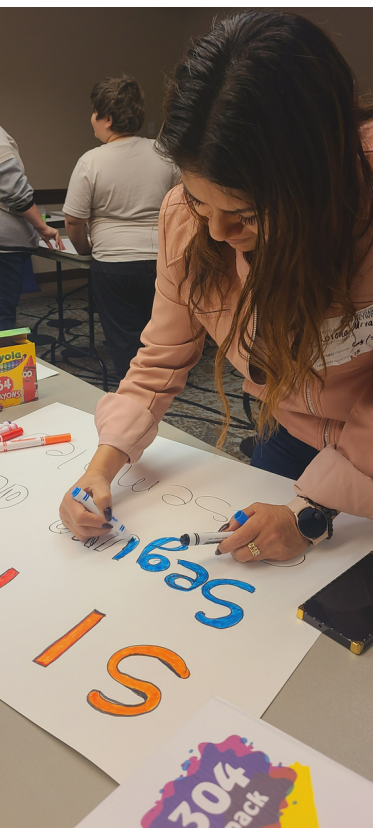
This bill would not ask businesses to pay an additional tax to support this program as they are already paying into unemployment insurance for all workers that they employ.

This bill does not ask businesses to change their business practices around employing undocumented workers.

LEGISLATIVE MEETINGS

We have scheduled meetings for you and others in your district to speak with the offices of your legislators about our campaigns. **For specific information about the meetings for your district, please go to tinyurl.com/IRADmeetings.**

Please chat with other members in your district and assign the following roles for your legislative meetings if you have not already:



Lead(s)

Main point of contact for group

Facilitator

Ensures meeting stays on track and that all speakers can share

Speaker(s)

If you are in a larger group, please assign 1 to 3 designated speakers

Notetaker

Takes notes during the meeting. We have included space in this booklet for notetaking

After each legislative meeting, please take the time to debrief with your group. So that we can know how each meeting went and what follow up we need to take, we ask that each person complete this feedback form after each meeting.



A Handy Guide to Crafting Your Message

You can use your hand to help structure your Lobby Day meeting and make sure you say all you need to say.

The first finger—the thumb—is “Introduce yourself.”

Tell your legislator your name where you live, and that you are one of his/her constituents.

The second finger—the index finger—is “What is my issue.”

You want to say, “I’m here to talk with you about Family Planning Funding” or any other issue you’re here for. Outline the basic topic and describe the bill.

The third finger—the middle finger—is “Why I care.”

This is where you share your personal story, and you can begin in many different ways. For example, “I care about this issue because . . .” or “This issue is important to me because . . .”

The fourth finger—the ring finger—is “Why the Legislator should care.”

This is where you use the talking points from your fact sheet.

The fifth finger—the pinky—is “Make the ask.”

This is the part where you ask for their support. You can say, “Will you support bill # _____?”

Finally, the whole hand – is a handshake and “Thank you for your time.”

Be sure to express your appreciation for the legislator’s time and for considering the issues you’ve brought up today.

3rd Finger

- This is important to me because _____.

4th Finger

- This is an important issue in our state because _____.

5th Finger

- Will you support

_____ for Family Planning Funding?

- Can we count on you to support Bill # _____?

2nd Finger

- I’m here to talk to you about _____.

Why I care.

What is my issue?

Why the Legislator should care.

Make the ask.

1st Finger

- Name
- Where you live
- I’m a constituent!

Introduce yourself.

Personal Story

LEGISLATIVE TALKING POINTS

Unemployment Insurance for Undocumented Workers Campaign

WHY IS THIS BILL IMPORTANT?

UI is necessary for stability and progress of the economy as a whole. Offering undocumented workers unemployment benefits not only keeps their families afloat during difficult times but ensures that cash continues to flow in our communities and local economies. Undocumented workers are paying into the UI system but are excluded from collecting benefits.

WHY SHOULD YOU, OUR LEGISLATOR, SUPPORT THIS BILL?

Unemployment insurance is how we support my community and essential workers across the state, who do the necessary labor of our economy—often at great risk to them and their family's well-being. 68% of the undocumented workforce are employed in industries—like agriculture, waste management, and food service—that keep our communities fed, healthy, and safe.

This request impacts not only the immigrant and refugee residents of your district who would benefit from this program, but their family, friends and wider community. When a provider loses their income, the impacts reverberate not just in a household but across a community. Your support would allow for benefits to come to residents of your district and to immigrants, refugees and their families, across the entire state.

ASK YOUR LEGISLATOR

Can you commit to supporting this bill?

Health Equity for Immigrants Campaign

WHY IS THIS BUDGET PROVISIO IMPORTANT?

Everyone should have access to health care, and immigration status shouldn't be a barrier to accessing the care a person needs. Immigrants are part of the social fabric of U.S. society who deserve the same opportunities to access quality health care as already accessed by our citizen neighbors

WHY SHOULD YOU, OUR LEGISLATOR, SUPPORT THIS BILL?

Last year, the legislature provided \$49 million to build a medicaid equivalent program that would cover immigrants and refugees of all statuses at the lowest income levels, **but this is not enough!** This level of funding will only cover up to 10,000 individuals, only a third at most of eligible individuals. If more funding is not secured health coverage will continue to be out of reach for members of our communities that most need support. That is why we are advocating for funding for this program that would allow for **as many as 25,000 people** to be covered by the time of the program's launch in July of 2024. Healthcare is a human right - we cannot let anyone fall through the cracks despite the progress made.

ASK YOUR LEGISLATOR

Can you commit to supporting this budget proviso?

Newly Arrived Migrants Support Campaign

WHY IS THIS BUDGET PROVISIO IMPORTANT?

Thousands of migrants are arriving in Washington State, exercising their right to seek asylum. Many have fled violence and instability and have made long and dangerous journeys, arriving with little more than the clothes on their back. We must welcome and support migrants who are seeking shelter, safety, and opportunities for a better life.

WHY SHOULD YOU, OUR LEGISLATOR, SUPPORT THIS BILL?

Last year saw the highest number of asylum seekers arriving in our state, an estimated 14,000 people, primarily from countries in South America and Central Africa. Washington is a state that has been welcoming to immigrants and refugees and as multiple crises around the world continue, we anticipate that more migrants will continue to make WA their home. Asylum seekers deserve to be treated with dignity, have their basic needs—including housing, food, and education—met, and receive culturally and linguistically appropriate support to navigate life in a new country and proceed with their immigration cases.

ASK YOUR LEGISLATOR

Can you commit to supporting this budget proviso?

Example Storytelling Response

TALK ABOUT A CHALLENGE YOU'VE FACED

My name is Sergio, I live in Royal City, WA. I have been working in agriculture since I came to the state of WA more than 25 years ago. I recently had a stroke in September of this year, from my home I was taken to the nearest hospital to where I live. I arrived at the hospital, was treated, and then transferred to Spokane. I was hospitalized in Spokane for two days and then discharged. I returned home worried about how I was going to be to pay the hospital bills and not about my recovery. I have lived in the state of WA for over 25 years and at this time I am not eligible for state insurance or any other government assistance because I am undocumented.

HOW WOULD THIS BILL HELP YOU FACE THESE CHALLENGES?

If I had had more access to health care, I would have been more careful about going for routine checkups. You just have to go to the hospital/clinic because you don't have to pay a lot of money. Working in the fields earns little, and as soon as we can afford to pay for the basics, we now have much less pay a large hospital bill. I have lived in WA for many years and I have contributed a lot and I also pay my taxes like any other citizen. I hope that legislators will take us into account and pass this law so that they give us insurance for all immigrants in the state. Health is paramount to all people, and no one should be excluded from health care.



RALLY CHANTS

01 The people united will never be divided!

02 Ain't no power like the power of the people
'cause the power of the people don't stop! Say what!?

03 Show me what community looks like: (This is what community looks like!)
Show me what democracy looks like: (This is what democracy looks like!)
Show me what welcome looks like: (This is what welcome looks like!)

04 Give me a W, give me an A, give me an I, give me an S, give me an N! What does that say? WAISN, 3 times WAISN, WAISN! WAISN!

05 When immigrant rights are under attack, What will we do? Unite, push back! When refugee rights are under attack, What will we do? Unite, push back!

06 As many joined, we share one sight— Cause we all stand for immigrant rights! As many joined, we share one sight— Cause we all stand for refugee rights!

07 What do we want? Justice! When do we want it? Now!

08 I! (x2) I Believe! (x2) I Believe that (x2) I Believe that we will win (continue)

Remember: Safety first!

RALLY SAFETY PROTOCOLS

Marching and rallying at the Capitol is an important way to make sure that our voice is heard. But we want to make sure you have a safe and enjoyable experience!



- 1** Stay on the sidewalk
- 2** Don't block traffic
- 3** If security or police approach you direct them to speak to our Police Liaison wearing orange and yellow vests

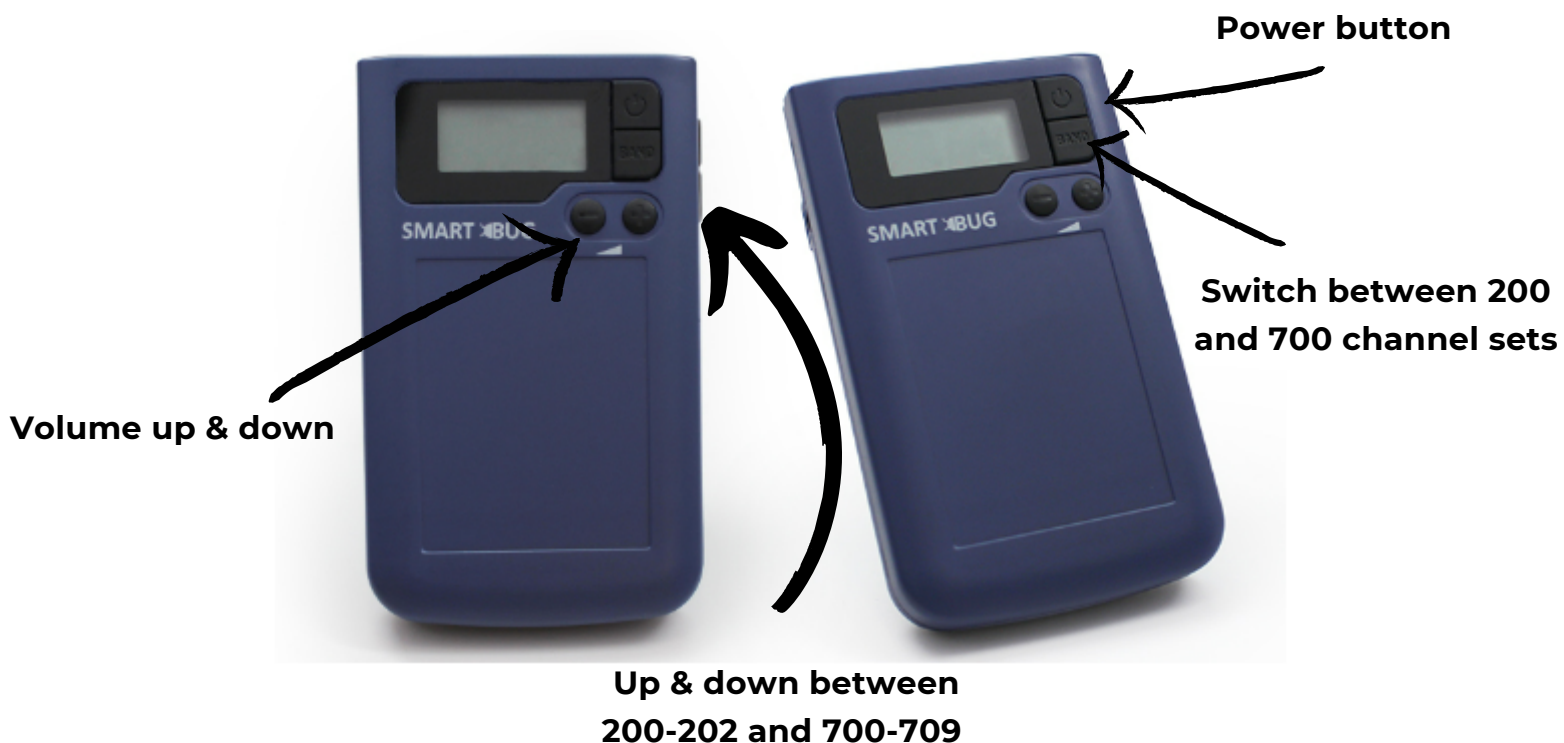
4 Point of Contact for rally:

Israel Gonzalez
pronombres: he/el
(509) 239 1930
Habla Español

LANGUAGE JUSTICE GUIDELINES

Interpretation can strengthen and expand our movement power across linguistic, cultural, and national differences! WAISN is committed to carrying out its value of incorporating language justice through its mission, programming, and events. This interpretation equipment is one of the ways we have invested in this value and want to offer it as a tool for the community.

Below, you can find a brief description of the interpretation equipment provided for IRAD and best practices for usage:





**Place headphone in left ear to
listen to the interpretation**



Tips on using the equipment

- Turn on the receiver when the program begins.
- Turn the volume down OR turn off your device if you step outside of the room where the event is taking place. Long distances can impact the quality of the interpretation.
- Turn off the device when the program takes a break or when eating lunch, this will help save the battery life of the device.
- The equipment should not be used by children.
- If there is any problem or malfunction with the equipment call Gaby at (509) 239-5051 to report it, and have it exchanged or repaired.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

| English | Spanish | Definition |
|------------------------|---|---|
| bill | proyecto de ley | A draft of a proposed law that is presented to the legislature. The legislator will review the bill and decide if the bill will become a law. |
| bill hearing | audiencia del proyecto de ley | A public forum where the strengths and weaknesses of a proposed bill is discussed by legislators. Members of the public can speak in favor of or against the proposal during these meetings. |
| campaign | campaña | The action of working in an organized manner to achieve a political or social objective. Example: WAISN's Health Equity for Immigrants Campaign |
| committee | comité | Each body of the legislature (Senate and House) has committees, which are based on specific topics & responsibilities. Some examples are the Transportation Committee, or the House Finance Committee. If you know what committees your legislator is a part of, you can also speak to them about issues that relate to their Committee area or responsibility. |
| constituent | constituyentes | Someone who lives within the legislative district is a "constituent" of that district and is represented within the political system by the legislator of that district. |
| health insurance | seguros de salud / seguro médico | An agreement in which an insurance company agrees to pay for some or all of your medical expenses in exchange for a monthly payment. |
| legislative district | distrito legislativo | The geographical area of the state is divided into many "legislative districts." Each one has a different legislator that is responsible for advocating for the needs of those constituents. You will be speaking to the legislator associated with your legislative district. |
| legislators | legisladores | Representatives of your district (each district has a different representative) whose main function is to represent your interests, your needs and advocate for you in that political space. |
| unemployment insurance | seguro de desempleo / beneficios de desempleo | A government program that gives money to individuals when they lose their job due to reasons that are not under their control. Undocumented immigrants currently are not allowed to receive this money. |



Brenda Rodriguez Lopez
She/Her/Ella
Executive Director



Catalina Velasquez
She/Her/Ella
Executive Director



Alan Flores Torres
He/They/Elle
Executive Assistant



Sasha Wasserstrom
They/Them/Elle
Policy Director



Vanessa Reyes
She/They/Elle
Policy Manager



Liliana Fausto
She/Her/Ella
Campaign Coordinator



Israel Gonzalez
He/Him/El
Community Organizer



Nedra Rivera
She/Her/Ella
Hotline Manager



Christy Korrow
She/Her
**Resource & Partnership
Manager**

Meet the WAISN Team!



Marleny Silva Velarde
She/Her/Ella
Resource Info Coordinator



Yahaira Padilla
She/Her/Ella
**Deportation Defense
Coordinator**



Kenzie Sosa
She/Her/Ella
Personnel Success Manager



Marsha Enriquez
She/Her/Ella
Operations Coordinator



Gaby Torres
She/Her/Ella
**Language Justice
Coordinator**



Ruqaiyah Damrah
She/Her
Digital Organizer



Carlos Abarca
He/Him/El
Hotline Operator



Erika Mejia
She/Her/Ella
Hotline Operator



Marjorie Kittle
She/Her
Finance Director



Sam Choi
He/Him
**Culture & Wellness
Coordinator**

WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK!



Post your pictures & videos on social media, tag us, and use **#irad2024**



Like



Comment



Share



Save

Follow us on all social media platforms!



WAISNorg



waisn_org



@waisn

WAISN HOTLINE

WAISN operates a statewide Deportation Defense Hotline, which has been operating since 2017 and is the largest and only hotline exclusively dedicated to serving immigrants in the state of Washington



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Questions?

Overall Program & Legislative Meetings

Liliana Fausto

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March & Rally

Israel Gonazalez

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Interpretation Issues

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