



Feb. 3, 2026

Dear Chairs Robinson and Ormsby,

Higher education and workforce training are not optional investments but core economic infrastructure. They connect Washingtonians to living-wage jobs, help break cycles of poverty, and supply the skilled workforce our state depends on. When access and affordability erode, opportunity narrows and our economy feels it.

This year, students and families are already navigating higher costs in nearly every part of daily life. At the same time, proposed reductions at the state level — combined with uncertainty and cuts federally affecting health care, housing, and food assistance — will make it harder for students to enroll, stay in school, and complete credentials. We should not balance budgets on the backs of students working to build a future here.

Students are doing their part: working, caregiving, serving their communities, and pursuing training in high-demand fields like health care, education, and the trades. Our job is to keep the path within reach. Stability and predictability in tuition and financial aid policy are some of the most powerful tools we have to support persistence and completion.

Since 2017, the Legislature has committed to keeping college affordable for students and families by capping tuition at 3.3% each year. As Washington families struggle with rising costs and inflation, our state should remain committed to protecting college affordability and not adding additional tuition increases.

The Higher Education Caucus priorities focus on practical, high-impact protections:

- Protect and restore financial aid, so students can access college and workforce training.
- Prevent further cuts to institutions and programs that provide instruction, advising, and basic needs supports that drive completion.
- Preserve long-term higher education funding by restoring Workforce Education Investment Act resources, stopping supplanting, and supporting sustainable revenue.

These priorities are about keeping doors open — for students, for employers, and for communities statewide.

Sincerely,

Sen. T'wina Nobles

Chair, Senate Higher Education & Workforce Development Committee
28th Legislative District

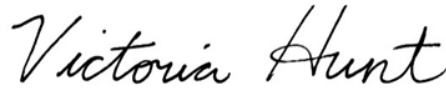
Rep. Dave Paul

Chair, House Postsecondary Education & Workforce Committee
10th Legislative District


**WASHINGTON STATE
LEGISLATIVE
HIGHER EDUCATION CAUCUS**



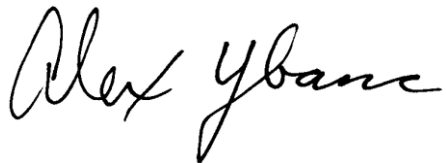
Suzanne Schmidt
State Representative
4th Legislative District



Victoria Hunt
State Senator
5th Legislative District



Matt Boehnke
State Senator
8th Legislative District



Alex Ybarra
State Representative
13th Legislative District



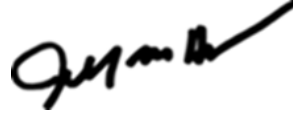
Nikki Torres
State Senator
15th Legislative District



Marko Liias
State Senator
21st Legislative District



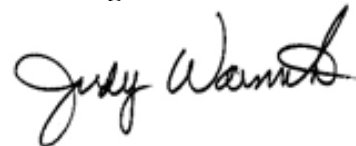
Lisa Callan
State Representative
5th Legislative District



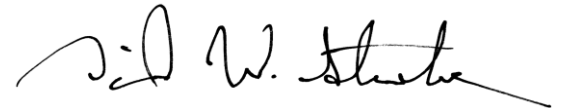
Jeff Holy
State Senator
6th Legislative District



Bob Hasegawa
State Senator
11th Legislative District



Judy Warnick
State Senator
13th Legislative District



David Stuebe
State Representative
17th Legislative District



Lisa Parshley
State Representative
22nd Legislative District


**WASHINGTON STATE
LEGISLATIVE
HIGHER EDUCATION CAUCUS**

Beth Doglio

Beth Doglio
State Representative
22nd Legislative District

Greg Nance

Greg Nance
State Representative
23rd Legislative District

Deborah Krishnadasan

Deborah Krishnadasan
State Senator
26th Legislative District

Mari Leavitt

Mari Leavitt
State Representative
28th Legislative District

Edwin Obras

Edwin Obras
State Representative
33rd Legislative District

Liz Berry

Drew Hansen

Drew Hansen
State Senator
23rd Legislative District

Yasmin Trudeau

Yasmin Trudeau
State Senator
27th Legislative District

Jamila Taylor

Jamila Taylor
State Representative
30th Legislative District

BK Thomas

Brianna Thomas
State Representative
34th Legislative District

Liz Berry

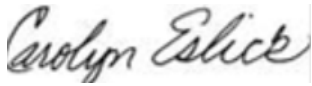


**WASHINGTON STATE
LEGISLATIVE
HIGHER EDUCATION CAUCUS**

Julia Reed
State Representative
36th Legislative District



Rebecca Saldaña
State Senator
37th Legislative District



Carolyn Eslick
State Representative
39th Legislative District



Debra Lekanoff
State Representative
40th Legislative District



Lisa Wellman
State Senator
41st Legislative District



Joe Timmons
State Representative
42nd Legislative District

Liz Berry
State Representative
36th Legislative District



Mary Fosse
State Representative
38th Legislative District



Janice Zahn
State Representative
41st Legislative District



Sharon Shewmake
State Senator
42nd Legislative District



Shaun Scott
State Representative
43rd Legislative District



**WASHINGTON STATE
LEGISLATIVE
HIGHER EDUCATION CAUCUS**



John Lovick
State Senator
44th Legislative District



Javier Valdez
State Senator
46th Legislative District



Gerry Pollet
State Representative
46th Legislative District



Debra Entenman
State Representative
47th Legislative District



Osman Salahuddin
State Representative
48th Legislative District



Vandana Slatter
State Senator
48th Legislative District