



Keeping Washington's economy robust requires broad based policy initiatives. The governor, the Senate and the House have pursued an agenda that creates jobs with fair wages and benefits.

Collective Bargaining and worker rights

Working to extend collective bargaining rights to child care workers and directors (2009 – HB 1329).

Granted Washington State Patrol permission to negotiate pay and wage level with the State (2005 – 2SHB 1188).

Extended collective bargaining rights to professional and technical employees of Western Washington University and retroactively applied cost-of-living adjustments (2006 – SHB 2976).

Provided collective bargaining rights to family child care providers and adult family home providers (2006 – E2SHB 2353; 2007 – ESHB 2111).

Granted 8,000 professional staff at community and technical college and four-year- public colleges the same collective bargaining rights currently available to faculty and civil service employees (2007 – HB 2361).

Granted collective bargaining rights to student employees at Washington State University (2008 – SHB 2963).

Created a program for the Washington State Patrol and the state to select an interest arbitration panel before the bargaining process begins (2008 - SHB 3002)

Wages and Benefits

Defining "independent contractor" for purposes of prevailing wage (2009 – SB 5904).

Reforming the payday lending industry (2009 – HB 1709).

Working to create affordable health care (2009 – SB 5945).

Allowing Department of Fish and Wildlife enforcement officers to transfer service credit (2009 – HB 1953).

Requiring state agencies to collect data on Washington Management Services and exempt employees related to wages and compensation (2009 – HB 2049).

Strengthened retirement benefits and pensions for our state's teachers, firefighters, police and state employees (2005 – HB 1319, HB 1321, HB 1327, HB 1936; 2006 – SESHB 2680, SHB 2684, SBH 2688, HB 2960, HB 3019)

Gave state employees their first raise in three years (2005 – operating budget).

Created program to implement wage ladder for child care workers, providing better wages for employees of participating child care facilities (2005 – SHB 1636).

Provided additional funding to prevailing wage program (2006 – SB 5236).

Increased penalties for violations of wage payment requirements (2006 – SHB 3185).

Protected against possible elimination of provisions under federal Family and Medical Leave Act by bringing state program into partial conformity with federal program (2006 – SSB 6185).

Enabled part-time academic employees at community and technical colleges to accumulate sick leave (2006 – ESSB 6396).

Became second state in nation with state family leave insurance to allow workers to better balance family and job responsibilities (2007 – E2SSB 5659).

Included health care hours purchased through a trust when calculating time loss benefits (2007 – SHB 1244).

Created Workers Family Tax Credit to provide sales tax refunds to working Washingtonians who qualify for federal earned income tax credit (2008 – ESSB 6809).

Required employers offer reasonable leave, and expanded leave sharing program, to employees who are victims of domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking (2008 – SHB 2602, SSB 6572).

Unemployment Insurance and Workers' Compensation

Bringing transparency to worker compensation refund program (2009 – SB 6035).

Restricting contact with medical providers after appeals have been filed under industrial insurance (2009 – HB 1402).

Authorizing director of Department of Labor & Industries



to issue stop-work order against an employer, ceasing all operations if employer is found to be in violation of certain workers compensation provisions (2009 – SB 5613).

Barred employers from using certain short-term disability policies to deny family leave rights (2005 – SSB 5850).

Paid higher unemployment benefits to workers with irregular earnings histories by establishing two-quarter averaging for two years (2005 – EHB 2255).

Protected laid-off workers from drastic reductions in unemployment insurance benefits by making payment of benefits based on two-quarter averaging permanent (2006 – ESB 6885).

Increased penalties for employers who knowingly evade successor employer unemployment contribution rate provisions (2006 – SSB 6359).

Increased minimum worker compensation benefit for first time since 1969 (2007 – ESB 5675).

Banned workers' compensation claim suppression (2007 – SSB 5443).

Provided for better advocacy system for self-insured workers to help avoid legal costs and lengthy disputes by creating Labor & Industries ombudsman (2007 – EHB 1833).

Modified industrial insurance presumption of occupational disease for firefighters to include certain heart injuries and cancers (2007 – ESHB 1833).

Eased economic and health burdens injured workers suffer during worker compensation appeals processes by requiring employers to provide benefits for employees during appeals process (2008 – E2SHB 3139).

Improving, training for and creating jobs

Establishing separate fund for workforce training to get dislocated workers back to work in high-demand fields (2009 – SB 5809).

Working to address construction contractors that hire workers without proper licenses, certificates, permits and endorsements to do electrical, plumbing and conveyance work (2009 – HB 1055).

Promoting energy efficiencies in buildings to create green jobs (2009 – SB 5649).

Requiring public works contracts awarded by four-year institutions of higher education to include apprenticeship utilization provisions (2009 – SB 5873).

Required public works projects valued at \$1 million or more to have apprentices perform at least 15 percent of projects' labor hours (2005 – SB 5097).

Created and continued funding opportunity grants program to provide funds for postsecondary workforce education (2006 – ESSB 6386; 2007 – 2SHB 1096).

Expanded apprenticeship opportunities for high school graduates (2006 – 2SHB 2789).

Granted tax incentives to aerospace, health care and biotech industries to retain local family-wage jobs (2003 – HB 2994; 2006 – SHB 2640, SHB 2670).

Established Washington Customized Employment Workforce Training Program, which allows employers to receive funds for employee training; employers receive 50 percent business and occupation tax credit (year? – 2SSB 6326).

Established pilot program for vocational rehabilitation services (2007 – ESSSB 5920).

Identified underground economy via construction industry taskforce and implemented recommendations that reduce actions of negligent business owners (2009 – HB 1555, 2007 – SB 5926; 2008 – 2SSB 6732).

Added additional "good cause quit" provision to cover individuals who leave work to enter an approved apprenticeship program (2008 – SSB 6751).

Provided \$5 million for building trades and aerospace apprenticeships (year – bill).

Funded collective bargaining agreements and more than \$200 million in health care and salary increases (2005-2007).

Funded Initiative 732 and health care increases for K-12 of more than \$255 million (2005-2007).

Funded home care worker collective bargaining agreement of \$31 million (2005-2007).



Bills passed by the Senate

Bill	Title	Status	Date	Original Sponsor
SB 5809	Workforce Training Program	H Comm & Lab	3/11/2009	Hargrove
SB 5492	Interest arbitration & site certificate employees	H Rules	3/5/2009	Marr
SB 5649	Energy efficiency in buildings	H Tech/En/Com	3/10/2009	Rockefeller
SB 5873	Apprenticeship utilization	H Comm & Lab	3/9/2009	Kline
SB 5904	Independent contractors	H Comm & Lab	3/7/2009	Kohl-Welles
SB 5945	WA Health Partnership Plan	H Comm & Lab	3/9/2009	Keiser
SB 5986	Collective bargaining for selected faculty	H Comm & Lab	3/9/2009	Kauffman
SB 6035	Retro reform	H Comm & Lab	3/12/2009	Kohl-Welles
SB 5613	Stop work orders	H Comm & Lab	3/4/2009	Kohl-Welles

House bills alive in the Senate

Bill	Title	Status	Date	Original Sponsor
HB 2049	Concerning personnel practices regarding exempt employment	S LCCP	3/4/2009	Seaquist
HB 1402	Industrial Insurance appeals	S LCCP	3/11/2009	Williams
HB 1555	Underground economy	S LCCP	3/5/2009	Conway
HB 1055	Possessing worker identification on the job site	S LCCP	3/5/2009	Kirby
HB 1329	Collective bargaining for childcare providers	S LCCP	3/9/2009	Pettigrew
HB 1709	Payday lending reform	S LCCP	3/9/2009	Nelson
HB 1953	Allowing department of fish and wildlife enforcement officers to transfer service credit.	S W&M	3/6/2009	Conway