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## 2017 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

### All Washington's young people find *their* way home

#### **ENSURE THAT YOUTH EXITING PUBLIC SYSTEMS HAVE A SAFE, STABLE PLACE TO GO**

- Establish an interagency workgroup or Governor's cabinet on youth homelessness.
- **HB 1867**: Evaluate Extended Foster Care.
- **HB 1816**: Improve admission practices for youth entering Crisis Residential Centers and HOPE Beds.

#### **INVEST IN CRISIS INTERVENTION AND DIVERSION FROM HOMELESSNESS**

- Improve and expand family reconciliation and preservation services.
- Reform status offense laws to reduce the number of youth detained for actions like violating curfew and running away.

#### **IMPROVE EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT OUTCOMES FOR VULNERABLE YOUNG PEOPLE**

- **SB 5241**: Improve high school graduation rates by awarding students with partial or full credit for courses completed at a prior school.
- Support schools to fully implement the federal Every Student Succeeds Act and ensure accountability.
- Fully implement the Homeless Student Stability Program to connect older youth and unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness to services and housing.
- Designate a trained staff person in every K-12 public school building that can identify and support students experiencing housing instability and homelessness.
- Expand Youth Works.

#### **PROVIDE LEGAL ADVOCACY FOR FOSTER CHILDREN AND YOUTH**

- Appoint attorneys to all children and youth in foster care before their first shelter care hearing.

#### **ALLOCATE SUSTAINABLE FUNDING**

- Move funding for the Office of Homeless Youth to Commerce's base budget.
- **HB 1570**: Renew the Document Recording fee without adding a future sunset date. Restrict the requirement that 45% of funding from the Home Security Fund be spent on rental or leasing payments to for-profit entities. ("Washington Housing Opportunities Act.")
- Support the Washington Youth and Families Fund.
- Generate new revenue for the state budget.

#### **STRENGTHEN STATEWIDE SYSTEMS OF CARE**

- **HB 1630**: Improve data quality by allowing minors experiencing homelessness to provide written consent to share their personally identifying information.
- **HB 1661**: Support the Blue Ribbon Commission's recommendation to establish a new Department of Children, Youth and Families.