



SENATE DEMOCRATS WASHINGTON STATE

JOBS • FAMILY SECURITY • BETTER GOVERNMENT



SENATOR

# Paull Shin

21st Legislative District • Edmonds

June 2009



Dear Neighbors,

This will no doubt go down in history as one of the toughest sessions ever.

Upon arriving in Olympia in January we faced a budget crisis best described as simply unprecedented. And then it got worse.

Washington's once resilient economy, bucking national trends in recent years due in part to a drawn out housing boom, finally succumbed to worldwide economic pressures in 2008. The housing market froze. Unemployment, home foreclosures and requests for public assistance began to climb in long, clumsy steps. Consumer spending pulled back. And in a state that relies upon the retail sales tax to provide a little over half its operating budget, tax collections began to dry up.

In late March the House and Senate introduced similar operating budget proposals with many cuts. Though we made use of roughly \$3 billion in one time federal stimulus dollars and \$2 billion from fund shifts, use of reserves and public employee compensation reductions — the single largest component of the solution — was roughly \$4 billion in painful cuts to an array of valued programs.

The solution called for adding roughly 7,000 public employees to the ranks of the unemployed. It slashed spending for education and higher education, increased college tuition by extraordinary levels and decimated budgets for health care and human services programs. The final budget didn't pick winners and losers. Rather, it shared the sacrifice. And in the process we balanced the budget.

But we also managed to maintain a safety net, albeit a smaller one, for the state's most vulnerable populations.

I was elected to make tough decisions, whatever they may be, whenever they may be required.

Despite these tough decisions, we have to move forward towards prosperity. This e-newsletter gives an overview of some bills and projects passed, most with the purpose of planning our way out of the economic crisis.

I believe that behind every crisis is an opportunity. Let us use this time to identify ways we can be a more efficient society.

It is important to reach out to our neighbors in this time of need. So many people are struggling and if we all support each other, the road to recovery will be all the quicker.

As always, I welcome your thoughts. My door is always open.

Sincerely,

Sen. Paull Shin  
21st Legislative District

## Please Keep in Touch

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## Senate Committees

Agriculture & Rural Economic Development  
Economic Development,  
Trade & Innovation (Vice Chair)  
Higher Education & Workforce Development  
International Relations Subcommittee (Chair)



## RETRAINING — MOVING OUR ECONOMY FORWARD

### Customized Training Program

Our state provides incentive for companies to come to Washington by offering training for their workers. The Customized Training Program provides training allowances to small business

employers who have entered into training agreements with colleges in the state. The bill I sponsored makes changes to the Customized Training Program, allowing employers to delay payment which encourages them to

train their employees now. (SB 5616) I originally started this program to help reverse the trend away from out-sourcing to in-sourcing. We have brought new jobs to the state with this program.

## HIGHER EDUCATION — SKILLS FOR TOMORROW'S JOBS TODAY

Current revenue shortfalls mean that Washington's institutions of higher learning will need to raise tuition rates if they are going to continue to maintain the quality of the services they provide. I recognize that these same institutions are a major source of the skills and talent on which local businesses rely to remain competitive in the world economy. It is crucial for our economic future to continue developing a pipeline between colleges and employers that

will enable us to keep our best and brightest right here in Washington and provide them with the skills they need to enter the workforce ready on day one.

### Global Asia Institute at the University of Washington

Asia represents two-thirds of the world's population and will continually have a huge impact on global affairs. I sponsored a bill that creates the Global Asia Institute within the Henry

M. Jackson School of International Studies at the University of Washington. The mission of the Institute will be to promote the understanding of Asia and the Middle East and its interactions with Washington and the world. The Institute will institutionalize, embellish and consolidate what the Jackson School has been doing for years. It will provide focus, legislative blessing, and an official acknowledgement of the work which carries a lot of weight in Asian

countries — encouraging export opportunities.

This institute will help develop relations between Washington and other nations which is especially important for our strong export market. As I have learned from my many trips abroad, nothing replaces cultural understanding and face-to-face interactions.

The Institute doesn't require a dime of state money. It will look for private and federal funds now that it is implemented. (SB 5177)



Rep. Liias and Sen. Shin with students

(cont. next page)

## University of Washington Center for Human Rights

Community members came to me last year and asked me to look at the study of human rights in our educational system. I sponsored a bill for them that creates the University of Washington Center for Human Rights, so students can focus on questions such as “Why are human rights necessary?” and “How can human rights improve relations among nations?”

Focusing on these kinds of questions will encourage an understanding of each other that will transfer into students’ professional careers.

The Human Rights Center will provide an interdisciplinary location for research, policy analysis, and dialogue specifically on human rights. It is important to recognize no state funding is used to support the opening of this center. (SB 5172)

## Opportunity Internship Program

The Legislature created the Opportunity Internship Program to provide incentives for local technical colleges, private four year institutions, employers and labor organizations to build educational and employment pipelines between low income high school students and high demand occupations. (HB 1355)

## Honorary degrees

In addition to honorary bachelor’s and master’s degrees, universities around the state can now confer honorary



doctoral degrees in recognition of a person’s learning or devotion to education, literature, art, or science. This creates an opportunity to raise funds, improve the reputation of a university and attract prominent speakers to campus. (SB 5173)

## Student health insurance abroad

A small but important bill has been passed that encourages students to get health insurance when they study abroad. Many students are now traveling overseas in study abroad programs without adequate insurance coverage. The

bill I sponsored authorizes institutions of higher education to require students to purchase insurance as a condition of participating in a study or research abroad program, unless the student already has insurance coverage. (SB 5925)

## CAPITAL PROJECTS — BUILDING THE INFRASTRUCTURE OF OUR FUTURE

In the final 2009–2011 capital budget, the projects selected focus on preserving our district’s natural resources and building educational facilities.

\$1 million is dedicated to buy a portion of Japanese Gulch that will serve the region as a wonderful open space. This large swath of woods and wetlands in Mukilteo and Everett covers roughly 108 acres. I hope to partner with the

*Japanese Gulch, Mukilteo*



community to raise the rest of the money to secure the entire greenbelt and save the Gulch. This is our only opportunity to save this land from developers.

\$5 million is dedicated to the Edmonds Community College Allied Health and Construction Industry building which will include space for nursing labs, pharmacy, construction trade and general purpose classrooms. The Allied Health program is currently located in portable buildings off the main campus designated for demolition due to deterioration. The new facility will encourage the anticipated 40 percent growth for this high demand program and give local students the education they need for future jobs.

# TRANSPORTATION BUDGET

Transportation revenue and investment packages authorized by the Legislature in 2003 and 2005 — and endorsed by citizens via the initiative process — are peaking at the very time when public investment in infrastructure is needed to bolster the sagging economy. Our proposed transportation budget takes advantage of this unique opportunity to help jump start the economy and create jobs.

Our state received \$492 million in Federal Stimulus Highway Funds as part of the American Recovery & Investment Act for 'shovel ready projects'. An average of 10 jobs are created or retained for each \$1 million in highway spending. This means this stimulus will not only provide needed highway improvement, but will put thousands of people to work within three months.

Some major megaprojects include:

- I-405 corridor projects to address major safety and congestion relief;
- SR 520 Bridge replacement and HOV lanes;
- SR 99/Alaskan Way Viaduct Replacement with a deep bored tunnel.

## International Relations Subcommittee

Nearly one-half of jobs created in the state in the last 30 years are attributable at least in part to exports. I was asked to chair the Senate's new International Relations Subcommittee to provide a forum to discuss the variety of ways Washington can enhance our global economic opportunities.

We are now creating a report that will identify specific ways Washington can leverage our strategic location and build international relationships. The report mentions how Washington can capitalize on additional economic opportunities by increasing trade with our friends abroad. Here are some examples.

Washington should:

- support increased rail and road infrastructure, either through direct investment or through incentivizing private development to enhance ease of transfer inland from the ports;
- increase marketing;
- seek additional trade agreements with foreign countries, and assist local ports in reaching trade agreements with foreign ports;

- support the Washington State Department of Agriculture Marketing Program because approximately 1/3 of Washington crops are exported;
- create a stronger communication channel with the federal government because most major trade and foreign policy decisions are made at the federal level rather than by individual states;
- capitalize on students studying abroad as international ambassadors and involvement with trade missions.

I supported beginning reform to the Washington State Dept. of Commerce to assist in facilitating these recommendations.



Port of Everett

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