Quaker Voice is an organization of citizen advocates for peace and social justice action at the state level, drawn from Quaker meetings and churches across the state. We work with legislators and agencies directly through our citizen advocates and through our professional lobbyist, Lonnie Johns-Brown (ljohnsbrown@gmail.com). Priorities of our three working groups are reflected below. Our website lists additional bills we support.

**Criminal Justice Priorities**

[**HB 1268**](https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=1268&Initiative=false&Year=2023)**: Unstacking Sentencing Enhancements**.

This bill would permit judicial discretion concerning the stacking of enhancements on top of the basic sentence. These additional years generate pronounced racial inequity and excessive sentences. This discretion to allow enhancements to be served concurrently rather than consecutively was supported unanimously by the Criminal Sentencing Task Force.  Data from 2021 show that 29% of the individuals serving time with enhancements for weapons were Black, while only 4.2% of the state population is Black.

**Sponsors**: [Goodman](https://leg.wa.gov/house/representatives/pages/default.aspx#goodman), [Simmons](https://leg.wa.gov/house/representatives/pages/default.aspx#simmons), [Walen](https://leg.wa.gov/house/representatives/pages/default.aspx#walen), [Eslick](https://leg.wa.gov/house/representatives/pages/default.aspx#eslick)

[**HB 1087**](https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=1087&Year=2023&Initiative=false)**: Solitary Confinement**.

The Dept. of Corrections ended its use of solitary confinement for disciplinary purposes in 2021.  HB 1087 would confirm that practice into law and extend it by prohibiting involuntary solitary confinement except for medical isolation and when there is danger to the individual or to others. Opportunities for social engagement would be required during extended solitary confinement. Solitary confinement harms the mental health of people subjected to it, especially those already mentally unstable and ill. Solitary confinement is traumatic and dehumanizing. Violence is often a symptom of isolation, not a cause.

**HB 1087** Sponsors: [Peterson](https://leg.wa.gov/house/representatives/pages/default.aspx#peterson), [Simmons](https://leg.wa.gov/house/representatives/pages/default.aspx#simmons), [Berry](https://leg.wa.gov/house/representatives/pages/default.aspx#berry), [Bateman](https://leg.wa.gov/house/representatives/pages/default.aspx#bateman), [Reed](https://leg.wa.gov/house/representatives/pages/default.aspx#reed), [Ramel](https://leg.wa.gov/house/representatives/pages/default.aspx#ramel), [Pollet](https://leg.wa.gov/house/representatives/pages/default.aspx#pollet), [Street](https://leg.wa.gov/house/representatives/pages/default.aspx#street), [Senn](https://leg.wa.gov/house/representatives/pages/default.aspx#senn), [Macri](https://leg.wa.gov/house/representatives/pages/default.aspx#macri), [Thai](https://leg.wa.gov/house/representatives/pages/default.aspx#thai), [Santos](https://leg.wa.gov/house/representatives/pages/default.aspx#santos), [Ormsby](https://leg.wa.gov/house/representatives/pages/default.aspx#ormsby), [Farivar](https://leg.wa.gov/house/representatives/pages/default.aspx#farivar);

**SB 5135** Sponsors: [Wilson, C.](https://leg.wa.gov/senate/senators/pages/default.aspx#wilsonc), [Frame](https://leg.wa.gov/senate/senators/pages/default.aspx#frame), [Hunt](https://leg.wa.gov/senate/senators/pages/default.aspx#hunt), [Kuderer](https://leg.wa.gov/senate/senators/pages/default.aspx#kuderer), [Lovelett](https://leg.wa.gov/senate/senators/pages/default.aspx#lovelett), [Nguyen](https://leg.wa.gov/senate/senators/pages/default.aspx#nguyen), [Nobles](https://leg.wa.gov/senate/senators/pages/default.aspx#nobles), [Pedersen](https://leg.wa.gov/senate/senators/pages/default.aspx#pedersen), [Saldaña](https://leg.wa.gov/senate/senators/pages/default.aspx#saldaa), [Wellman](https://leg.wa.gov/senate/senators/pages/default.aspx#wellman)

[**SB 5120**](https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=5120&Initiative=false&Year=2023)**: 23-hour Crisis Relief Centers**.

Crisis relief centers are intended to move away from the focus on use of police to handle behavioral/mental health crises that may occur on the street or elsewhere and toward behavioral/mental health specialists. (See SB 5189/HB 1348 below for a bill to develop the appropriate workforce to perform these duties.) These crisis centers would be most helpful during the evening and night when other facilities are not available.

**Sponsors**: [Dhingra](https://leg.wa.gov/senate/senators/pages/default.aspx#dhingra), [Wagoner](https://leg.wa.gov/senate/senators/pages/default.aspx#wagoner), [Braun](https://leg.wa.gov/senate/senators/pages/default.aspx#braun), [Frame](https://leg.wa.gov/senate/senators/pages/default.aspx#frame), [Hasegawa](https://leg.wa.gov/senate/senators/pages/default.aspx#hasegawa), [Keiser](https://leg.wa.gov/senate/senators/pages/default.aspx#keiser), [Kuderer](https://leg.wa.gov/senate/senators/pages/default.aspx#kuderer), [Nguyen](https://leg.wa.gov/senate/senators/pages/default.aspx#nguyen), [Nobles](https://leg.wa.gov/senate/senators/pages/default.aspx#nobles), [Pedersen](https://leg.wa.gov/senate/senators/pages/default.aspx#pedersen), [Randall](https://leg.wa.gov/senate/senators/pages/default.aspx#randall), [Saldaña](https://leg.wa.gov/senate/senators/pages/default.aspx#saldaa), [Shewmake](https://leg.wa.gov/senate/senators/pages/default.aspx#shewmake), [Stanford](https://leg.wa.gov/senate/senators/pages/default.aspx#stanford), [Warnick](https://leg.wa.gov/senate/senators/pages/default.aspx#warnick), [Wellman](https://leg.wa.gov/senate/senators/pages/default.aspx#wellman), [Wilson, C.](https://leg.wa.gov/senate/senators/pages/default.aspx#wilsonc)

**Economic Justice Priorities**

[**SB 5189 & HB1348**](https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=5189&Year=2023&Initiative=false) – **Establishing behavioral health support specialists**.

This bill supports behavioral health workforce development by establishing a paraprofessional category (at least a bachelor's degree level of education) to practice in partnership with a licensed behavioral health professional or a licensed community behavioral health agency.

**SB 5189 Sponsors**: [Trudeau](https://leg.wa.gov/senate/senators/pages/default.aspx#trudeau), [Wagoner](https://leg.wa.gov/senate/senators/pages/default.aspx#wagoner), [Conway](https://leg.wa.gov/senate/senators/pages/default.aspx#conway), [Dhingra](https://leg.wa.gov/senate/senators/pages/default.aspx#dhingra), [Wilson, C.](https://leg.wa.gov/senate/senators/pages/default.aspx#wilsonc)

**HB 1348 Sponsors:** Callan, Macri, Berry, Leavitt, Morgan, Taylor, Ramel, Senn, Kloba, Chopp, Bateman, Reed, Lekanoff, Gregerson, Doglio, Tharinger, Paul, Eslick, Pollet, Stonier

[**HB 1474 & SB 5496**](https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=1474&Chamber=House&Year=2023) – **Creating the covenant homeownership account and program to address the history of housing discrimination due to racially restrictive real estate covenants in Washington state**.

Racial disparity in homeownership is greater now than it was before fair housing legislation in the 1960s. These companion bills address systemic racism in the real estate, banking, and credit industries in Washington state by assisting first time home purchasers who have suffered directly from discriminatory practices in these industries. Addressing homeownership disparities also means addressing a massive racial disparity in household net worth that so affects where we can live, work, and attend school.

**HB 1474 Sponsors**: Taylor, Chopp, Berg, Peterson, Reed, Stonier, Gregerson, Bronoske, Cortes, Mena, Street, Ramel, Fosse, Fey, Goodman, Duerr, Bateman, Morgan, Alvarado, Macri, Senn, Berry, Kloba, Hackney, Springer, Slatter, Callan, Orwall, Farivar, Simmons, Ortiz-Self, Thai, Ryu, Sterns, Wylie, Ramos, Doglio, Riccelli, Chapman, Santos, Davis, Ormsby, Bergquist, Pollet

**SB 5496 Sponsors:** Lovick, Saldaña, Cleveland, Frame, Kuderer, Liias, Lovelett, Nguyen, Pedersen, Salomon, Stanford, Valdez, Wellman, Wilson, C.

[**HB 1045**](https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=1045&Year=2023&Initiative=false) – **Creating the evergreen basic income pilot program**.

Establishes the Evergreen Basic Income Pilot Program, providing 24 monthly payments to up to 7,500 qualifying low- to no-income Washington residents in an amount equal to 100 percent of the fair market rent for a two-bedroom dwelling unit in the county in which a participant resides. The program also has provisions to minimize any impact on any other assistance the participants are receiving. HB 1045 would provide impoverished Washington families with a simple and effective resource that can permanently get people out of poverty and afford basic needs.

**Sponsors**: Berry, Peterson, Ryu, Simmons, Goodman, Bateman, Reed, Ramel, Pollet, Street, Senn, Doglio, Macri, Mena, Wylie, Gregerson, Ormsby

**Environmental Stewardship Priorities**

[**HB 1392**](https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=1392&Initiative=false&Year=2023) **&** [**SB 5464**](https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=5464&Initiative=false&Year=2023) **Right to Repair**

Right to repair addresses issues of economic inequality and environmental stewardship. Manufacturers currently make their products harder to repair so that they can monopolize the repair market. Promoting the fair servicing and repair of digital electronic products in a safe, secure, reliable, and sustainable manner to increase access to appropriate and affordable digital products, support small businesses and jobs, and enhance digital connectivity in Washington state.

**HB 1392 Sponsors**: Gregerson, Kretz, Ryu, Dent, Berry, Fitzgibbon, Reed, Ramel, Pollet, Macri

**SB 5464 Sponsors:** Stanford, Hasegawa, Nguyen, Keiser, Conway, Hunt, Kuderer, Liias, Lovelett, Randall, Rolfes, Salomon, Shewmake, Valdez, Wilson, C.

[**SHB 1085**](https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=1085&Year=2023&Initiative=false) **Reducing Plastic Pollution.**

This bill will reduce plastic waste and pollution, which endangers humans’ and other animals’ health. First, it will remove some single-use plastic water bottles by requiring water-bottle filling stations in new commercial buildings where drinking fountains are required. Second, it phases out some small plastic containers for personal health and beauty products in lodging establishments because these can easily be provided by bulk dispensers. Third, it disallows thin-walled or soft-shell floating plastic foam structures which contribute to small and microplastic pollution of marine and shoreline environments.

**Sponsors:** Mena, Bateman, Reed, Fitzgibbon, Ramel, Peterson, Pollet, Berry, Walen, Doglio, Macri, Simmons, Thai, Cortes, Kloba, Ormsby