

SB 5063

Tonight I found out about S.B. 5063 or the "Kids First Bill." While this bill sounds like a win for higher education, it would be at an extreme loss for other social services in the state and I'm hoping LAC will oppose it. The bill introduced by Senator Hill would mandate that 2/3 of all new state revenue or any revenue left over in the state general fund be dedicated to education.

Again, this appears to be great for higher education, but S.B. 5063 would pit us against other social and health services in the state and I don't think that's advantageous for our university. As we know, education doesn't exist alone. It's apart of a network of social services and for education to be deemed more important than things like health care, monetary aid, public transport, and a host of other issues doesn't, in my opinion, line up with Western's values. Without healthy, well-fed, and well-supported individuals, we'll have a strong education system with weak students.

I heard about this bill at a revenue coalition meeting made up of representatives from NARAL, One America, Partners for Children, and at least 15 other organizations. All of them were opposed to this bill. The WSA has decided to take a stance neither for or against this bill and I think that's telling.

Below is the link to the bill and since I won't be able to stay on for the entire LAC meeting, I'm hoping the sentiments I expressed in this email can be passed along to the committee. Take care you two and I'm sending you lots of good vibes and positivity from Olympia. I can't wait to see you both at VLD -- less than a week away!

<http://lawfilesexternal.leg.wa.gov/biennium/2015-16/Pdf/Bills/Senate%20Bills/5063.pdf>