



"Support for HB 2224"

Proposed Motion: *The Associated Students of Western Washington University officially Support HB2224. A bill which will bring in an additional 1.5 billion dollars in new revenue to our state which not only help fund higher education, but bring much needed revenue to all the other critical social*

programs students at our university depend on.

Sponsor: *Heather Heffelmire/ AS Legislative Liaison*

Persons of Contact: *Heather Heffelmire*

Guest Speaker: *Heather Heffelmire*

Date: 2/9/14

Attached Document

<http://budgetandpolicy.org/schmudget/in-support-of-the-houses-revenue-proposals>
<http://lawfilesexternal.wa.gov/biennium/2015-16/Pdf/Bills/House%20Bills/2224.pdf>

Background & Context

Washington has the unfortunate honor of having the most inequitable and regressive tax policy in the country. We fund our state through a sales tax which largely impacts low-income people and people of color, while those with the most, pay the least. The regressiveness of our state's tax policy is a huge detriment to finding new and dedicated resources for higher education. Additionally, our state's archaic tax structure inhibits the funding of other necessary social programs like healthcare, transportation, and basic education which college students also need to achieve academic success. The passage of HB 2224 sponsored by Representative Carlyle will allow for a new source of revenue to our state and start to remedy the problem of our extremely unfair tax system while providing additional funding for the social programs Washington state students depend on.

Summary of Proposal

I am asking that we officially endorse HB 2224. HB 2224 will start bringing in much needed additional revenue to our state and will start to solve the problem of the regressiveness of our state's tax system. If passed by the legislature, HB 2224 will bring in an additional 1.5 billion dollars in new revenue to our state, helping to fund not only higher education, but all the other critical social programs students depend on.

Students have been asked by members of the State House to support this bill and I am happy to do it. I appreciate the sponsors of the bill for being willing to address the problem of our inequitable tax system. Passing this proposal will allow the students of Western to officially lobby in support of this bill and to use our AS resources to encourage the legislature to pass it.

Fiscal Impact

There is no fiscal impact to our university by passing this proposal, but the fiscal impact to our state would be very positive if passed by the legislature. It is estimated that 1.5 billion dollars in new revenue would be brought to our state if this bill is passed. Allowing new money to be invested into much needed social programs including basic education, high education, health care and other state priorities.

Rationale

The rationale behind this proposal is that it's right in line with our other legislative agenda items which call for new and dedicated revenue to higher education. This bill will bring money to our state's university systems and also to all the other programs students need in order to be successful academically. Additionally Representative Hansen, Chair of the House Higher Education Committee and an ally to students, has specifically asked students to support his bill. I think we should do what is best for Western's AS and support a bill that would greatly improve the lives of Western students.