

Western Intersectional Lobby Day: Ethnic Student Center

Legislative Priority: **Support for Undocumented Students and Communities**

The Associated Students of Western Washington University recognize that undocumented students are one of the most vulnerable groups of students and is concerned with the lack of resources available for undocumented students in higher education across the state. In addition to supporting undocumented students in their higher education and career endeavors, we see it important to encompass and support the undocumented community as a whole.

Therefore, we recommend:

- Public support of the Tacoma City Ordinance No. 28491 which limits the expansion of the Northwest Detention Center.
- Amend the Washington State Growth Management Act (GMA), WAC. 365-196-550, and RCW 36.70A.200 to specifically exclude federal detention facilities.
- Close the Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma by revoking its business license due to the number of severe health and safety violations that have occurred there, under the ownership of the GEO Group. The GEO Group is responsible for the poor conditions, human rights violations, and numerous incidences of hunger strikes, suicides, and deaths.
- Amend HB 1079 and RCW 28B.15.012 to lower the residency requirement for in-state financial aid and tuition from three years to one year, thereby ensuring as many undocumented students have access to higher education and opportunity as possible.

Legislative Priority: **Farm Worker Protections**

The Associated Students of Western Washington University recognizes and strongly believes that the health and safety of farm workers here in Washington state are integral to the success and vitality of our state's economy. The people who perform the more strenuous work in our economy - growing and harvesting our food - have been denied even the most basic health and safety protections, fair wages, and proper recognition. Substantive change is required in order to ensure that the State of Washington adheres to the strictest standard of human and worker dignity and secures the future prosperity of our state.

With this, we recommend:

- Amend the 1958 Washington State Minimum Wage and Hour Act, closing the overtime loophole for farm and dairy workers, making them eligible for overtime pay and a fair compensation for time worked (RCW 49.46.130)
- Simplify independent contractor definitions and improving enforcement to end the practice of misclassifying workers as independent contractors in an effort to avoid paying workers' compensation, unemployment insurance, and other public necessities. By doing so, the state will support both workers and law-abiding employers.
- A mandate to provide general notice to neighboring farms and properties prior to commencing a spray application
- Pass the Keep Washington Working Act, SB 5497, as endorsed by the Washington State Labor Council and Yakima Immigrant Response Network, among others.
- Institute a state-level ban, such as those passed in Hawaii and California, of chlorpyrifos to protect local communities and habitats