

Feb 9 exec board statement

Hello executive board,

I recently heard that the capacity for Western intersectional Lobby Day was reduced from 100 to 50 students against the words of student leaders of color. Additionally, there is already a WIN wait-list for this 50 person capped event because so many students want to participate.

I have participated in the lobby days the past two years and know COVID and online meetings impacted modality for lobbying. I saw first hand how valuable the experience of lobbying for intersectional issues was for marginalized groups of students, and also saw the positive impact this modality had on accessibility for student participation.

The in person lobbying opportunity offered this year is an even more invaluable experience for students of color, LGBT+ , disabled, sexual assault survivors, and other demographics of students that this lobbying trip is *meant* to serve. However, the nature of WILD being in person again and having a halved capacity presents accessibility barriers for college students to directly address the issues they face with policy makers. The barrier for this event specifically targets marginalized students, who are the group WILD was created by and for. Further, this limitation reiterates the continued institutional approach to put marginalized groups' needs on the backburner.

As much as other lobby days at WWU are important, if we as a community care about uplifting the voices of marginalized students and giving them opportunities to address the barriers they face on a state level, this lobby day is the only lobby day with a goal that is *specifically* to ensure these students can come advocate for *their* needs and the needs of their peers.

Thank you for listening and I strongly encourage the exec board to advocate to the appropriate channels to expand the spots for Western Intersectional Lobby Day.