

January 12, 2021

Washington State Senate Ways & Means

Transcript of Testimony in Support of 5092

Good evening Chair Rolfes and members of the committee.

My name is Misha Werschkul and I'm the executive director of the Washington State Budget & Policy Center. The budget proposals put forward by Governor Inslee put Washington – start Washington on a path towards an economic recovery by prioritizing racial equity, making sure Washingtonians can meet their basic needs, and taking action to balance Washington state's tax code. Three quick highlights of the budget that I want to mention for you all is the effort to undo the strict and unjust time limits in the WorkFirst/TANF program, the proposals to raise equitable revenue through a capital gains tax, and the partial funding of the Working Families Tax Credit. I want to urge you and the legislature as a whole to build on these proposals with increased investment in many of the areas highlighted by the folks throughout this committee hearing today including supporting the self-determination of communities of color by investing in the Communities of Concern [Commission] and rejecting cuts that destabilize our public services like public schools.

Thank you so much.