

January 14, 2021
Washington State House Appropriations
Transcript of Testimony in Support of HB 1094

Thank you so much Chair Ormsby and members of the committee.

My name is Margaret Babayan, representing the Washington State Budget & Policy Center today. Overall, we think Governor Inslee's budget proposals help put Washington on a path to recovery from COVID-19 in particular by highlighting racial equity, making investments in services that help people support their basic needs, and also taking actions to balance the tax code. I want to highlight three parts of the budget proposals, in particular, that we are supportive of. The first being to undo strict time limits in WorkFirst and TANF, second to raise equitable revenue through a capital gains tax, and third to fund a Working Families Tax Credit. We urge the legislature to build upon these proposals and make increased investments in these areas. And also encourage members to invest in the self-determination of communities of color by funding a Communities of Concern Commission – you heard from Josephine Tamayo Murray earlier this session. And finally we hope members will reject cuts that undermine community well-being – cuts to services, excuse me, that undermine community well-being, like cuts to public education. Thank you.