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*Church Council of
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Earth Ministry

*Friends Committee on
Washington Public Policy*

*Intercommunity
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*Jewish Federation of
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*Lutheran Public Policy
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*Washington Association
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2008 State Legislative Priorities

Following are the priorities of the RCCG for the 2008 Legislative Session. The RCCG partners are committed to working in coalition with faith communities, religious advocates and community allies to enact these public policies.

Affordable & Accessible Housing

- Fund a \$100 million supplemental appropriation to the Housing Trust Fund to reduce the funding shortfall for homeless and low income housing programs.
- Grant authority for limiting condominium conversions to local jurisdictions.
- Expand the Washington Families Fund and increase Transitional Housing, Operating and Rent (THOR) funds.

Affordable & Accessible Healthcare

- Compensate for any loss in children's health coverage due to a shortfall in federal funding of the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP).
- Develop a system of subsidies for low-wage workers to access affordable health care plans.
- Develop a program to address the crisis in low income senior oral health.

Reducing Poverty

- Support the anti-poverty package of measures that reduce poverty by expanding subsidies for education (Opportunity Grants for post-secondary education), employment (Community Jobs), housing (stipends for disabled workers), food (Food Stamps) and asset building through matched savings accounts (Individual Development Accounts)..
- Establish Living Wage Standards for State Contracts

Environmental Stewardship

- Set goals to reduce global warming pollution and promote investment in clean energy jobs via the Washington Climate Action bill.
- Support Local Farms/Healthy Kids by enabling small and mid-size farmers to supply schools and food banks with locally grown produce.
- Restore Washington's Evergreen Cities by keeping existing trees and plant new ones in urban forests and low-income neighborhoods.

Public Safety & Restorative Justice

- Expand educational, vocational, and treatment programs beginning at the time of sentencing, as well as reentry services in our communities, including housing and employment.
- Create an office of corrections ombudsman to provide independent oversight of the effectiveness of our prisons in providing rehabilitation, health, and safety.
- Set a moratorium on interest accumulating during incarceration on debt resulting from court judgments.

Tax Fairness

- Support a working families tax credit.

Compassionate Immigration Reform

- Support "*New Americans Initiative*", a comprehensive citizenship program for immigrants by allocating \$2 million in the supplemental budget to spur economic development and build capacity of organizations providing citizenship services."