

Tell Legislators to pass important reforms to the Community Reinvestment Program:

The CRP fix bill has a public hearing in House Appropriations on Saturday, Feb 7, and must be voted out of committee by Monday evening.

If passed, the bill would:

- Require the CRP to be updated every five years
- Establish biennial reporting beginning in 2028
- Ensure the Office of Equity analyzes the CRP and supports advisory teams
- Distribute funds equally across key investment areas
- Require an independent evaluation system

Please email Appropriations Committee members today urging them to move the bill to Rules and advance it to the floor for a vote. A draft email and committee contact list are below.

Draft email:

Dear [Legislator or Official's Name],

This letter expresses support for Washington House Bill 2523, concerning revisions to the state's Community Reinvestment Program. This legislation represents an important step toward strengthening the program's focus on community priorities and increasing opportunities for meaningful community input in how reinvestment dollars are allocated and administered.

The Community Reinvestment Program was created to address racial, economic, and social disparities caused by the historic design and enforcement of state and federal criminal laws. It directs investments into community identified priorities such as economic development, legal assistance, violence intervention, and reentry supports. Funding for CRP has already enabled organizations to partner with local residents to expand economic opportunity, workforce engagement, and neighborhood safety across Washington.

House Bill 2523 proposes revising the CRP framework in ways that reflect lessons learned from early implementation, increase legislative clarity and oversight, and embed stronger mechanisms for community engagement in program design and evaluation. Elevating community voice in CRP is essential for ensuring that the people and places historically impacted by policy inequities have a central role in shaping how resources are distributed and the outcomes that are prioritized.

Ensuring authentic pathways for community engagement and guidance helps build trust, improves transparency, and ultimately leads to more effective investments that reflect local needs and aspirations. Enhancing community input will allow CRP to stay true to its original purpose while evolving to reflect the lived experiences and expertise of the communities it is intended to benefit.

Support for House Bill 2523 reflects a broader commitment to equity, locally driven decision-making, and sustainable community development. By strengthening the connection between reinvestment dollars and community priorities, this legislation can help ensure CRP is implemented in a way that delivers long-term economic and social benefits across the state.

Please move HB 2523 out of the Appropriations committee so it can move forward to the House floor.

Thank you,

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