

Hi *FIRST* Washington teams:

We need your help in reaching out to your state legislators this week!!!

As you know, *FIRST* Washington public school teams depend upon financial support from Washington's state legislature. With the legislature facing around a \$12 billion budget deficit, the Senate included funding for *FIRST* programming in 2025-2026, but the House did not.

We need your team's help in requesting that your legislators advocate that the funding included in the Senate's Operating Budget also be included in the legislature's final compromise budget.

Please follow these steps below. Each team should send a total of 3 emails – 1 to your state Senator and 1 to your two State Representatives:

- Identify the names of your legislators by visiting - <https://app.leg.wa.gov/DistrictFinder/> (each team will have two representatives and one senator who represent your district). If you live in one district, but your school is in another district-feel free to reach out to both districts' lawmakers.
- Locate the email address for these three legislators here - <https://app.leg.wa.gov/Rosters/Members>. Also paste the email address for their Legislative Assistant into the "cc" or carbon copy position in the email.
- We have put a sample email on our website here: <https://firstwa.org/resources/> under "Outreach to Legislators" Paste the text from the attached "Sample Legislator Email" into the text of the email with a subject line indicating something like: "Request from students in your district".
- Put your legislator's last name next to "Senator" or "Representative" in the salutation of the email (such as Senator John Smith). NOTE: separate emails should be sent to each of your legislators.
- Add your school, team name and team number to the first line of the email and in the salutation at the bottom after "Sincerely".
- Optional: Attach a video of your team with your robot, mentors and team members (and perhaps end it with you all saying "thank you" and waving)

If you have any questions, please reach out to Lila Mowatt at lilam@firstwa.org Thank you and please let me know if you have any questions. By working together as a team, we can have a huge impact!