

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Rep. Kristine Lytton Wins 2016 Torch of Leadership Award

State representative from Anacortes has a long history of supporting education

OLYMPIA — Representative Kristine Lytton is the winner of AWSP's 2016 Torch of Leadership Award. Lytton, a Democrat representing the 40th Legislative District, was chosen for her commitment to K-12 education during the 2016 legislative session.



"Representative Lytton has been a strong champion of fully funding schools throughout her public service career," said AWSP Government Relations Director Jerry Bender. "She understands Washington's tax structure is badly broken, which is why she continues to explore new K-12 education solutions such as closing outdated and ineffective corporate tax loopholes."

Lytton, who chairs the House Finance Committee, is the prime sponsor of HB 2366, which directs the Legislature to take action by the end of the 2017 session to eliminate school district dependency on local levies for basic education funding. That policy was enacted into law when Governor Inslee approved the Senate version of the bill (SB 6195).

Upon hearing of her selection for the Torch of Leadership award, Lytton said, "It's a great honor to receive the Torch of Leadership Award. My work as a lawmaker and school board member has been focused on building a public education system that provides opportunities to learn for all kids. My sincere thanks go to the Association of Washington School Principals for giving me this award."

It's no surprise full funding for education would be near and dear to Lytton. She's served two terms as a member of the Anacortes School Board and been a part of Governor Inslee's bipartisan McCleary plan workgroup since it was created in 2015. In addition to sponsoring HB 2366, Rep. Lytton sponsored HB 1345, which defines professional learning as a "comprehensive, sustained, job-embedded, and collaborative approach to improving teachers' and principals' effectiveness in raising student achievement."

A frequent visitor to schools in her district, Lytton keeps in touch with the schools and educators. After a 2014 visit to Burlington-Edison High School, AWSP Legislation Committee member and B-EHS Principal Todd Setterland told his staff, "Rep. Lytton repeatedly stated that she'll draw on her experiences this morning throughout her work on the Education Committee."

A lifelong advocate for children and education, Lytton has not only worked for fully funding education and supporting and expanding opportunities for students and educators, but for other improvements that help students achieve, like improvements to foster care and mental health. Creating that type of support with holistic and sustainable policies is a great example of why she's been chosen as the winner of the 2016 Torch of Leadership Award.

AWSP will officially honor Lytton in October 2016 at its Legislation Committee meeting. AWSP founded the Torch of Leadership Award in 2009.

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