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Sullivan receives “Friend of Children” Award

Tacoma, WA (May 17, 2020): Representative Pat Sullivan, D-47, received the Washington State Parent Teacher Association’s “Friend of Children” award at the organization’s virtual annual convention May 17, 2020.

The WSPTA Friend of Children Award recognizes and honors an individual or organization for state-level dedication to all children through service aligned with WSPTA’s vision and mission supporting the welfare, health, safety and/or education of Washington state’s children.

“We don’t give this award every year,” said Janice Kutzera, WSPTA president. “It really takes a special level of dedication to a body of work that improves conditions for children across the state.”

Sullivan was recognized as one of the original authors of legislation in 2009 and 2010 that defined what constitutes “basic education” for the state’s K-12 public schools and created the funding phase-in for activities like all-day kindergarten, smaller class sizes, student transportation and school operations.

“Throughout the years, Representative Sullivan has demonstrated strong advocacy for students of all ages – from our littlest learners to students pursuing college and careers,” said Kim Kuhne, WSPTA membership director.

“His leadership, passion and knowledge of K-12 education funding and policy made him the clear choice for the award this year,” said Kuhne, adding that in a fiscal crisis like we’re experiencing, the protections he’s helped put in place will prevent deep cuts in education funding.

In the hints leading up to the announcement, Sullivan was recognized as the state House of Representatives Majority Leader for 10 years and a key budget negotiator, positions which he has used to advocate for comprehensive school funding and, in the 2020 session, for funding to add school counselors in the state’s high-poverty schools.

Sullivan is the father of three daughters who attended Kent public schools. He and his wife, an oncology nurse, were active in their daughters’ PTAs, and Sullivan served as co-president of the Covington Elementary PTA. In accepting the award, Sullivan noted he now had a seven-month-old grandson so expected to re-engage in PTA again soon.

About Washington State PTA: Washington State PTA is the state’s oldest and largest child advocacy organization founded in 1905 by Abby Williams Hill of Tacoma, an artist who saw the need for an organization to support Washington’s children. Thanks to her leadership and vision—and current members who continue to carry her vision forward—Washington State PTA has been a leading voice for children in Washington for more than 110 years. To learn more about the Washington State PTA, please visit www.wastatepta.org.

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