

Washington State Patrol Media Release

Chief John R. Batiste



Captain Jason Berry
Government and Media Relations
(360) 596-4010 – office
(360) 596-4015 – fax
<http://www.wsp.wa.gov>

*****For Immediate Release*****

Date: March 10, 2010
Contact: Trooper Rich Magnussen
Phone: (509) 670-2255

Legislation Authorizes WSP to Participate in Chief for a Day Program

Today Governor Christine Gregoire signed into law Senate Bill 5582, a measure which will allow the Washington State Patrol (WSP) to partner with local law enforcement agencies and hospitals to name a chronically ill child as the WSP "chief for a day."

Sen. Linda Evans Parlette, R-Wenatchee, sponsored the Senate Bill; Rep. Mike Armstrong, R-Wenatchee, sponsored the companion bill in the House of Representatives.

"This is an invaluable program, allowing the State Patrol to make a difference in the life of a chronically ill child enhancing a positive relationship between law enforcement, hospitals and the community," explained Chief John R. Batiste. "It would not have been possible without the support of Senator Parlette and Representative Armstrong."

The "chief for a day program" is a program in which the WSP partners with other local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies, hospitals, and the community to provide a day of special attention to chronically ill children. The cost of these events is minimal, with the primary resource expended being the time of the officers involved.

SB 5582 gives the WSP authority to participate in these events, accept grant funds and gifts to facilitate the program and allows the events to take place at WSP facilities.

###