



Senator Pramila Jayapal

Pramila is serving her first term in the Washington State Senate, representing the 37th Legislative District. Her home of nearly twenty years, the 37th is one of the most racially and economically diverse districts in Washington state.

Born in India, Pramila came to the U.S. by herself when she was sixteen to attend Georgetown University. She worked on Wall Street as a financial analysis following graduation and then went on to earn a Master of Business Administration from Northwestern University. After working in the medical equipment industry for a year, she decided to leave the private sector and pursue work in the social justice arena.

Pramila has spent the last twenty years working both internationally and domestically as a leading national advocate for women's, immigrant's, civil and human rights. She worked on improving access to women's reproductive and primary health internationally and on increasing access to credit in low-income communities in the U.S. and abroad.

She is the founder and former Executive Director of OneAmerica, Washington state's largest immigrant advocacy organization, where she led one of the largest voter registration efforts in the state, helping over 23,000 New Americans to register to vote. She also helped organize the coalition that successfully pushed for the passage of the 2014 Washington State Dream Act, which allows access to state higher education financial aid for undocumented young people. She also served as the chair of We Belong Together, a national campaign to bring a strong gender analysis and advocacy to the issue of immigration.

She has recently finished her first legislative session as a State Senator and serves on the Senate Transportation, Healthcare, and Accountability and Reform Committees, the Educational Opportunity Gap Oversight and Accountability Committee, and the Sexual Assault Forensic Examination Best Practices Task Force.

She is also the recipient of numerous awards, including the National Organization for Women's Olga Vives Award – given to a woman who has been a leader nationally on improving the lives of women of color and vulnerable women. In May 2013, Pramila was also recognized as a White House "Champion of Change."

In addition to her work as an advocate, she is an author of a book and a contributor to numerous publications, including *The Nation* and Reuters. She lives in Seattle with her son and husband, and has another grown stepson who lives in Colorado.