



Report from Olympia No.8

Teamsters Local 117

News for DOC Teamsters - 2012 Legislative Session in Olympia



Teamsters Local 117: 14675 Interurban Ave. S, Suite 307 • Tukwila, WA 98168 (206) 441-4860 • www.teamsters117.org

OFFICERS' UNIFORM BILL IS ON THE MOVE!

Bill is exced out of critical Senate committee with "do-pass" recommendation



Robert Stricker of LCC testifies at a Senate hearing on February 23.

More than two dozen DOC Teamsters, along with many members of Local 117 from other industries, filled a Senate hearing room on Thursday, February 23, to speak out for higher quality, more professional-looking uniforms for correctional officers at the DOC.

The bill (HB 2346) before the Senate Human Services & Corrections Committee would exempt correctional officers from wearing uniforms made by inmates.

MEMBERS PROVIDE POWERFUL TESTIMONY

Members traveled from across the State to provide testimony in support of the bill.

"Our presence, our professionalism, and the way we look play a huge part in the authority that we have," said Greg McCombs, a Sergeant at the Coyote Ridge Correctional Complex.

"We are assaulted in those uniforms and have been murdered in those uniforms. Our uniforms need to be

professionally made," said Robert Stricker, a Classification Counselor at the Larch Corrections Center.

Sergeant Eric Smith of the Washington Corrections Center brought to the attention of the committee the uniforms on display in Q13's expose, *Inmates in Charge*, which aired last year after Officer Biendl's murder.

"If you look at the panel of officers who were sitting there - I was appalled at the quality of their uniforms," he said.

Terry Hutchins, a registered nurse at the Monroe Correctional Complex, pointed to the substandard quality of correctional officers' uniforms as compared with those of officers at other agencies.

"State Patrol officers walk around with a lot of pride. Their uniforms say, 'I am a professional.' At DOC, the uniforms are not up to par, and it affects morale tremendously."

BILL EXCED OUT OF COMMITTEE!

Members' testimony paid off: In the end, six of the seven Senators on the Committee voted in favor of the bill.

This is a tremendous victory for all of the Teamsters at DOC who have been fighting for higher quality, more professional-looking uniforms!

Thank you to the many Local 117 members who have testified, lobbied, email, and called their representatives in support of the bill. Your voice makes all

the difference!

The bill is now on to the Senate Ways & Means Committee and should be heard on Monday. If it is exced out of Ways and Means, it will move to a Senate floor vote in early March.

Check in at your Local Union's website at www.teamsters117.org as we may be calling on you to contact your representatives again to voice your support of the bill.

TEASMTERS LOCAL 117 LOBBY DAY

The uniform bill hearing coincided with the second of three Local 117 Lobby Days, designed to provide Union members with an opportunity to learn more about the legislative process and to make their voices heard.

Before and after the hearing, members met with their representatives to discuss issues important to working families.

In addition to uniforms, members spoke with their legislators about job creation, healthcare, and the need to generate additional revenue to fund public safety

The next Local 117 Lobby Day is on March 27. To RSVP or for more information, contact Political Action Coordinator Lily Wilson-Codega at 206-794-1262.



Local 117 Teamsters with Senior Policy Advisor to Senator Lisa Brown, Marcus Riccelli