



Report from Olympia no. 1

January 23, 2014

Teamsters Local 117

News for Teamsters 117 - 2014 Legislative Session in Olympia



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

TEAMSTER LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Teamsters 117 Lobby Days Planned for Jan. 28 & Feb. 20



Teamsters Lobby Day - 2013

The 2014 legislative session kicked off in Olympia on January 13 and will last for 60 days. It's a short session, so acting quickly and decisively with lots of member support is key.

Teamsters 117 employs a full-time Lobbyist, **Teresita Torres**, who will be on the ground every day in Olympia working to promote your Union's legislative agenda. Teresita works closely with Political Action Coordinator, **Dustin Lambro**, who has organized two lobby days during session so that you have a chance to speak directly with your legislators about critical issues. The next lobby day is scheduled for February 20. Contact Dustin directly at 1-888-872-3489 ext. 1262 if you would like to attend.

The following represents our legislative priorities for 2014:

TAXI CAB OPERATORS - RIGHT TO OPT

INTO L&I (HB 2152): Currently, Teamster taxi cab operators are required to pay hundreds of dollars a month for their L&I insurance. This legislative session, we are supporting a bill that would allow drivers the option to opt into the program.

Local 117 Lobbyist Teresita Torres has been meeting with legislators over the issue and has identified Representative Cyrus Habib (48th District) as a prime sponsor of the bill.

RETIREMENT SECURITY FOR DOC HEALTH CARE EMPLOYEES (PSERS BILL - HB 1923):

HB 1923 allows health care professionals at the DOC to participate in the State's Public Safety Employees' Retirement System (PSERS). HB 1923 passed 94-3 in the House in 2013 but has not been passed by the Senate.

This legislation is critical because correctional employees have, on average, a shorter lifespan than the general population, and workers in health care occupations are particularly susceptible to health and safety issues in prisons.

INCLUDE AN ADDITIONAL \$7 MILLION (\$5.1 MILLION GFS/\$1.8 MILLION CAPITAL) IN SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET TO MEET THE NEEDS OF INCREASED PRISON CAPACITY:

The Governor's supplemental budget proposal included an additional \$5.1 million GFS to open a 256-bed medium-security unit at the Washington State Penitentiary to meet the demands of a rising

BREAKING NEWS

Olympia News Ticker

Jan. 13 - Legislative session begins.

Jan. 16 - Teamster taxi cab operators testify before the House Labor & Workforce Development Committee in support of HB 2152, a bill that would give taxis the choice of opting into the State's Labor & Industries program.

Jan. 20 - Sergeant Michael Boe of the Monroe Correctional Complex testifies before the Senate Commerce and Labor Committee in opposition to SB 6053, a bill aimed at weakening unions by providing an exemption to membership.

Jan. 21 - Robert Bruner, a Teamsters 117 Shop Steward employed at Davis Wire, testifies in support of a package of bills (HB 2334, HB 2333, HB 2332, HB 2331) designed at protecting workers against wage theft.

Jan. 22 - Twelve members of Teamsters 117 join members of UFCW Local 21 at a phonebank in support of a statewide paid sick days bill (HB 1313) and against a bill (HB 1161) that would provide corporate tax breaks to Costco and eliminate Teamster jobs in liquor distribution.

Jan. 23 - Legislators introduce a bill that would raise the state's minimum wage to \$12/hr.

Jan. 28 - Over 90 members of Teamsters 117 from across the State have confirmed their participation in our first Teamsters 117 Lobby Day of the 2014 legislative session to be held on this day.

Take Action! Pass Paid Sick Leave Bill (HB 1313)

Call the Legislative Hotline at 1-800-562-6000 now!

You shouldn't have to choose between your health and your job. It seems straightforward enough, but every day tens of thousands of workers in restaurants, child care centers, and offices across our state are faced with that very decision.

Now, the Washington State Legislature is considering a bill (HB 1313) that would enable workers the right to earn paid sick leave. **Call the Legislative Hotline in Olympia at 1-800-562-6000 and tell your representatives to pass the Paid Sick Leave Bill (HB 1313)!**

male offender caseload and mitigate existing overcrowding issues. It also included \$1.8 million in capital costs related to complete pre-design studies on capacity issues for male and female prison populations. We are urging inclusion of both of these monies in the House and Senate supplemental budgets.

INTEREST ARBITRATION FOR CAMPUS

POLICE: We support granting interest arbitration rights for higher education uniformed police. We believe this law will help fix an inequity in the law where campus police are not granted interest arbitration to settle disputes that occur in the workforce. Virtually every other police force has binding interest arbitration for reasons well known within the law enforcement community.

WORKERS' COMP SYSTEM: We are firmly opposed to all efforts to weaken our state's strong workers' compensation system that protects workers when they are injured on the job. We have the strongest system in the country, and we oppose all legislation that would weaken it in any way, particularly as it relates to allowing younger workers opt out.

INTEREST ARBITRATION FOR STATE CORRECTIONAL EMPLOYEES (HB 1490):

In March 2013, Governor Inslee signed a Memorandum of Understanding that grants Teamsters at the DOC full interest arbitration rights for the term of our 2013-2015 collective bargaining agreement. This was our top legislative priority last session and represents a significant victory for Local 117 members.

The MOU is only a short-term fix, however, and statutory interest arbitration remains our long-term objective. We fought hard to pass an interest arbitration bill (HB 1490) last session, but the bill stalled in the House Appropriations Committee and is now sitting in Rules. While we are not seeking to advance the bill this session, the underlying issues for why we are seeking interest arbitration via statute remain unchanged.

In addition, we will be:

- Opposing attacks on prevailing wage law
- Supporting efforts to raise the minimum wage
- Opposing all attacks on the state's pension system
- Supporting Family and Medical Leave Insurance
- Fighting to stop predatory lending practices
- Fighting to stop wage theft

ROBERT BRUNER TESTIFIES ON WAGE THEFT BILLS

Local 117 member calls for immediate action to stop wage theft



Local 117 Shop Steward - Robert Bruner

On January 21, **Robert Bruner**, a Teamsters 117 Shop Steward employed at Davis Wire, testified in support of a package of bills aimed at protecting workers against wage theft. His testimony follows below:

"My name is Robert Bruner, and I work at Davis Wire in Kent, Washington, where we manufacture wire, including galvanized, specialty and reinforced wires. I am a proud member of Teamsters Local 117.

I am here today to urge this committee to adopt the series of bills related to wage theft.

I go to work every day, believing that at the end of the day the hours I spend working I'll be compensated for. My co-workers and I work hard, and it's reasonable to expect that our employer will pay us for the work that we do.

For years we were required to work through meal periods and the company refused to give us mandatory break periods. So, in April 2012, a group of us Davis Wire employees filed a class action wage and hour lawsuit against our employer.

That lawsuit is still making its way through the process, but for too many other workers across our state this is their everyday reality.

This legislature can go a long way toward fixing this problem by enacting common-

sense legislation to ensure bad actor employers don't get away with stealing from the people who work for them. Thank you."

Thank you to Robert and to all of the Teamsters who have taken time out of their busy schedules to testify, contact their legislators and lobby in Olympia. Your sacrifice in support of working families is appreciated across our Union!

Teamsters 117: Get News from Olympia!

Where do you go to get information about what's going on in Olympia? We have a variety of ways that you can stay informed about progress on our legislative priorities. The first place to look is on our website at www.teamsters117.org.

In addition to the website, you can:

- 1. SIGN UP FOR EMAIL UPDATES:** Create an account on your union's website to receive Teamster news and updates during legislative session.
- 2. TEAMSTERS LEGISLATIVE REPORT:** Check out our bi-weekly **Report from Olympia**, scheduled to be released every other Friday during legislative session.
- 3. ATTEND LOBBY DAY:** Our next Teamster Lobby Day is scheduled for February 20. For more information, contact Political Action Coordinator, Dustin Lambro, at 206-441-4860 ext. 1262.
- 4. FOLLOW TEAMSTERS 117 ON TWITTER:** Get up-to-the-minute reporting on bills as they make their way through the legislative process.