



Report from Olympia no.2

February 7, 2014

Teamsters Local 117

News for Teamsters 117 - 2014 Legislative Session in Olympia



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TEAMSTERS SPEAK OUT ON LOBBY DAY

Our next lobby day in Olympia is planned for February 20



Teamster correctional employees and taxi cab operators at our Lobby Day on Jan. 28.

Teamster 117 members from all corners of Washington State converged on Olympia on January 28 for the first Local 117 lobby day of the 2014 legislative session.

Members came from as far as Spokane, Walla Walla, the Tri-Cities, Clallam Bay, Aberdeen, Monroe, Vancouver and many other locations to speak with their legislators about critical issues facing Teamster families.

Correctional employees teamed up with taxi cab operators, warehouse workers, nurses, cooks and county and city employees for dozens of meetings with legislators.

OUR LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Some of the issues that Local 117 members brought to their representatives included:

- Passing a bill (HB 1923) that would allow DOC medical staff the right to participate in the PSERS retirement program;
- Passing a bill (HB 2152) that would give taxi cab operators the choice to opt into the State's Labor & Industries program;

- Preventing prison overcrowding by ensuring that funds are appropriated to open a 256-bed medium security unit at the Washington State Penitentiary in Walla Walla;
- Passing a statewide paid sick leave bill (HB 1313);
- Protecting our state's workers' comp program.

"My most important issue is staff safety," said Stevie Fonseca, who works at the

Washington Corrections Center for Women (WCCW). "I'm a Teamster and I want to let legislators know that we have a vote. When we show them that our vote matters, they will lend us their ear."

"THAT'S WHAT MAKES US STRONG."

"We are all members of the Teamsters," said Mohinder Gill, a taxi cab operator with the Western Washington Taxi Cab Operators Association. "That's what makes us strong."

Thank you to Political Action Coordinator Dustin Lambro for all of his hard work in making the day such a great success and to our fabulous lobbyist, Teresita Torres, for the wonderful job she is doing in Olympia.

Most of all, thank you to all of the members who took time out of their busy schedules to make their voices heard. You make all Teamsters proud!

You can view photos from Lobby Day and our bi-weekly legislative report from Olympia by visiting your Union's website at www.teamsters117.org. To participate in your Union's political program, contact Dustin Lambro at 206-441-4860 ext.1262.

UPDATE ON DOC STAFFING LEVELS BILL (HB2421)

Full-scale audit planned for DOC

Thank you to the many members who spoke with legislators in support of HB 2421, Representative Schmick's bill, which would fund a study of DOC staffing levels. While the bill has been pulled from executive session and will not be moving forward this year, lawmakers have given good reason for doing so.

After speaking with the State Auditor's office, Representative Schmick, and legislators on the House Public Safety Committee, we have learned that the bill was pulled because a comprehensive performance audit of the DOC, which had been on hold due to pending litigation, is now underway.

A performance audit of the Department will go much further than Representative

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Make your voice heard!

OUR NEXT LOBBY DAY - FEB. 20

Join us on Thursday, February 20 for our second **Teamster Lobby Day** of the 2014 legislative session. We will be meeting at the **Washington State Labor Council** (906 Columbia St, SW) at 8 AM for a brief training before heading out to meet with legislators.

Major issues include:

- Increasing the minimum wage;
- Passing a statewide paid sick leave bill;
- Protecting our workers' comp. system.

In addition, we will be lobbying on issues important to members at the Department of Corrections and Teamster taxi cab operators.

RSVP at www.teamsters117.org.

AUDIT

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Schmick's proposed bill. It will take an independent, rigorous look, not only at DOC staffing levels, but at all aspects of DOC operations. The Department will be held accountable to the Legislature and the Governor for any improper activity, safety and security hazards, or lack of effectiveness. The State Auditor, Troy Kelley, has assured us that no stone will go unturned.

A full-scale audit of the DOC is long overdue. It will help provide lawmakers with objective evidence of problem areas and it will make concrete recommendations about how to resolve them. **Your willingness to speak out about staffing levels and other safety-related issues helped make this possible.**

Olympia News Ticker

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 70 Local 117 members participate in our first Teamsters 117 Lobby Day of the 2014 legislative session.

Jan. 29 - The House of Representatives passes the paid sick leave bill (HB 1313) by a vote of 52-45.

Jan. 29 - The State Senate passes a structured settlement bill that would harm our current workers' comp. system (ESSB 5127) on a vote of 27-22.

Jan. 31 - The DREAM Act passes the Senate by a vote of 35-10.

Feb. 7 - Our Teamster taxi bill (HB 2152) that would allow taxi cab operators the right to opt into the State L&I system passes out of the House on a vote of 93-1.

Feb. 7 - A dozen Local 117 members were at the Capitol to lobby legislators on bills related to working family issues.

TAXI L&I BILL OVERWHELMINGLY PASSES STATE HOUSE IN OLYMPIA

Lobby visits and member testimony help bill pass first major hurdle



Teamster taxi cab operators meet with Representative Pat Sullivan (47th Legislative District) on January 28.

We have some great news out of Olympia! Representative Cyrus Habib's proposed legislation (HB 2152) that would lift the Labor & Industries requirement for taxi cab operators passed out of the State House of Representatives on Friday, February 7 by a vote of 93-1.

OUR MEETINGS WITH REPRESENTATIVES IN OLYMPIA PAID OFF

The **Western Washington Taxi Cab Operators Association (WWTCOA)** and the Teamsters have been working hard to pass the bill since the start

of legislative session on January 13. WWTCOA members testified at a Labor and Workforce Development Committee hearing on January 16, and dozens of drivers spoke to their representatives about the importance of the bill at our Teamster Lobby Day on January 28.

The next big fight will be in the Senate, where we will need to speak out in legislative hearings and meet with our State Senators. Under the bill, drivers would have the option to participate in the State's L & I insurance program, but they could opt out if they so desired.

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. The bill passed out of the State House on January 29, but faces a tough fight in the Senate.

- A widespread lack of paid sick leave poses public health risks;
- Paid sick leave helps protect the victims of domestic violence;
- Paid sick leave contributes to a strong economy;
- Employers' experience with paid sick leave is generally positive.

TAKE ACTION: Call the Legislative Hotline in Olympia at 1-800-562-6000 and tell your State Senator to pass the Paid Sick Leave Bill (HB 1313)!