



# TEAMSTERS LOCAL UNION 117

*Affiliated with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters*

General Public and Private Sector Employees and Special Services Employees in King and Pierce Counties and Employees of the State of Washington



March 18, 2015

Letters to the Editor  
Peninsula Daily News  
P.O. Box 1330  
Port Angeles WA 98362

Dear Editors:

A defense attorney's recent remarks about a Washington State correctional employee who was attacked and repeatedly stabbed while on duty last year at the Clallam Bay Corrections Center (CBCC) were offensive and warrant a response.

Our state's correctional employees perform some of the most difficult, dangerous work imaginable. They put their lives on the line to oversee, counsel, nurse, protect, and educate violent offenders, many of whom have committed heinous crimes. The savage strangulation of correctional officer Jayme Biendl by an inmate at the Monroe Correctional Complex in 2011 serves as a tragic reminder of the dangers these workers face every day as they protect our communities and keep all of us safe.

In the incident at CBCC, the assaulted officer was attacked from behind while working at a computer terminal and stabbed multiple times in the head, neck, and face with a 4-inch shank. For Clallam Public Defender, Alex Stalker, to characterize the time the officer spent recovering from his attack as a "paid vacation" is insensitive and irresponsible and does a grave disservice to all correctional employees and their families.

Sincerely,

John Searcy  
President