



Report from Olympia no. 1

Teamsters Local 117

News for DOC Teamsters - 2013 Legislative Session in Olympia

February 1, 2013



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HOUSE HEARING SET ON INTEREST ARBITRATION - HB1490

Hearing scheduled for Thursday, February 7 at 1:30PM



DOC Teamsters rally at the Capitol to push for interest arbitration legislation.

Since the start of 2013's 90-day legislative session, which kicked off on January 14, Local 117 has been on the ground in Olympia fighting on behalf of Washington State correctional employees.

Local 117 Lobbyist Teresita Torres is meeting with legislators to shore up support for our interest arbitration bills, while Political Action Coordinator Lily Wilson-Codega is coordinating a series of lobby days and mobilizing members to provide testimony and advocacy support on the issue.

#1 PRIORITY - INTEREST ARBITRATION

Local 117's number one priority this session is to pass interest arbitration legislation.

Interest arbitration would force the State to acknowledge the uniquely dangerous work that correctional employees perform and to bargain fairly over wages, hours, and working conditions. If the State and the Union cannot reach an

agreement through contract negotiations on mandatory subjects of bargaining, your Union would have the right to bring its proposals to a neutral arbitrator.

TWO BILLS ARE ON THEIR WAY TO COMMITTEE

On January 28, interest arbitration bills were introduced in both the House (HB 1490) and in the Senate (SB 5387).

A hearing for the House bill is scheduled for Thursday, February 7 in the John L. O'Brien Building (House Hearing Room B) at 1:30pm.

Correctional employees and their supporters need to pack the hearing room so that we can persuade legislators on the committee to support this bill!

If you are planning on attending the February 7 hearing, contact Lily at 206-794-2606 or RSVP at www.DOCProtectsWA.org.

You can read both bills in their entirety at www.leg.wa.gov.

BILLS HAVE 17 SPONSORS

Teresita has lined up an impressive, bipartisan group of 17 legislators to sponsor the bills.

In the House, sponsors include: Mike Sells (38th), Chris Reykdal (22nd), Steve Tharinger (24th), Gerry Pollet (46th), Tami Green (28th), Joe Fitzgibbon (34th), Roger Goodman (45th), Luis Moscoso (1st), Roger Freeman (30th), Kristine Lytton (40th), Timm Ormsby (3rd), Maureen Walsh (16th) and Mike Hope (44th).

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STOP THE ATTACK ON WORKERS' COMP!

Senate introduces 5 bills that will harm workers injured on the job

The State Senate is launching an all-out attack on our workers' compensation system that protects workers when they are injured on the job. Senate Republicans have voted to introduce 5 bills that would cut benefits for injured workers and their families.

The bills are being fast-tracked and may receive a floor vote as early as the first week in February. They are also fast-tracking other attacks on middle-class families, including legalizing a sub-minimum training wage and repealing the state's Family and Medical Leave Insurance Act.

Call the Legislative Hotline at 1-800-562-6000 and urge your State Senators to oppose Senate Bills 5112, 5124, 5126, 5127 and 5128.

COME TO OLYMPIA! Local 117 Lobby Days

Teamsters 117 has set up three more lobby days during the 2013 legislative session so that you can speak in person to your representatives about issues important to working families such as preserving collective bargaining rights, preventing job loss, and keeping workers safe on the job.

LOCAL 117 LOBBY DAYS - 2013

- February 21
- March 21
- April 18

For more information, please contact Lily Wilson-Codega at 206-794-2606.

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In the Senate, sponsors include: Kirk Pearson (39th), Pam Roach (31st), Steve Conway (29th) and Bob Hasegawa (5th).

CLOSER TO A CHANGE IN STATE LAW

We are now a step closer to passing this important legislation thanks to your participation in the **Correctional Employees' Day of Action** event on January 10, along with your lobby visits, phone calls, and emails to legislators.

We need to band together and keep up the fight!

TAKE ACTION!

Pass Interest Arbitration!

In the next few weeks, our bills will be heard by a series of legislative committees. In order to have a chance at passing these bills, Correctional Employees AND their supporters must:

1. *Come to the House Labor & Workforce Development hearing on February 7 at 1:30pm in Olympia.*
2. *Flood the Legislative Hotline at 1-800-652-6000 and tell legislators to pass the interest arbitration bills (HB 1490 & SB 5387).*
3. *Target all legislators in the House Labor & Workforce Development Committee, the Senate Commerce & Labor Committee, the House Ways & Means Committee, and the Senate Ways & Means Committee. Send an email to the legislators on these committees urging them to support our bills!*

As soon as we have additional hearing dates, we will let you know.

Thank you for your service and remember to stay safe!

LOCAL 117 MEMBERS LOBBY FOR CHANGE IN OLYMPIA

Dozens of Teamsters participate in year's second lobby day



Teamsters at the 2nd Local 117 Lobby Day in Olympia on January 31.

Over 30 members from all across our Union - public sector, private sector and the DOC - teamed up on January 31 to fight on behalf of working families on the second of four planned Local 117 lobby days this legislative session in Olympia.

Correctional workers joined forces with warehouse workers on strike at United Natural Foods, Inc. (UNFI); there were members from Safeway, King County, and Seafreeze.

DIVERSITY = POWER

"Our power at Local 117 is in our diversity," said Sidney Clark, a Classification Counselor at the Larch Correctional Center near Vancouver, WA.

"When a legislator sees someone from Safeway lobbying on issues that concern me, they take note," he said.

Clark, a veteran lobbyist who was instrumental in helping to pass a bill that will provide more professional uniforms for our State's correctional workers, gave the group some advice in an orientation before members headed out to their legislative appointments.

"Tell your story, speak from the heart, and don't be intimidated," he said. "These legislators work for you."

Members spoke with legislators on a

wide range of issues, including the importance of preserving our collective bargaining rights, preserving our State's workers' compensation system, obtaining the right to paid sick leave, defending the rights of taxi drivers, and promoting a bill that would guarantee interest arbitration rights for Local 117 correctional employees.

"It's important that the legislators hear from labor so

that we can get bills passed that support family-wage jobs and all of the issues that help create a healthy, viable life here in Washington State," said Azziem Underwood, a Local 117 Shop Steward at King County.

FIGHTING FOR OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS

"I came down to support everything about 117," said Matthew Komparta of Safeway.

Komparta, who said he has friends at the Department of Corrections, planned to talk with legislators about the interest arbitration bills in the House and the Senate.

Officer Shane Zey of the Monroe Correctional Complex had come for the same reason.

"We're working hard to get interest arbitration passed. It's the key to unlocking our future. If we can get it, it's a whole new ballgame of respect and dignity and being treated fairly," Zey said.

Thank you to Local 117 Political Action Coordinator Lily Wilson-Codega and Lobbyist Teresita Torres for making the event possible. There will be three more Lobby Days during this year's legislative session: February 21, March 21, and April 18. If you are interested in participating, contact Lily at 206-794-6673.