

# 2020 LOBBY DAY PRIORITIES

*Members of Teamsters Local 117*

*Teamsters 117 represents 18,000 working people at 200 employers across Washington State. Over 9,000 Local 117 members work in public service, corrections, and law enforcement providing vital services to our community and keeping the public safe.*

## SAFE STAFFING IN WA PRISONS

*Fund additional custody and healthcare positions at the DOC to help keep corrections staff safe*

In 2018, an external agency - CGL Companies - conducted a comprehensive staffing-level audit at the DOC. At the time, the DOC had been operating under a staffing model that had not been reviewed in 30 years. The audit identified serious deficiencies in the current DOC staffing model. The auditor's report concluded that an additional 250 custody staff are required and that there are severe shortages in non-custody areas as well. Understaffing has put a strain on corrections staff who are burdened by excessive overtime. This leads to unsafe working conditions and an increased likelihood of errors in the healthcare of incarcerated individuals. We support the funding in the Governor's budget to increase staff at the DOC.

## WORKER PROTECTION ACT

*Pass HB 1965 for stronger enforcement of laws that protect workers*

Washington State has many great workplace protections—wage and hour, equal pay, health and safety, and anti-discrimination laws. But resources available to rectify workplace violations are limited, which allows abuses to go unpunished. Lack of enforcement means workers in our state work for less than minimum wage, sustain serious injuries, and suffer other violations. HB 1965, the Worker Protection Act, creates a pathway for workers to blow the whistle and sue violators on behalf of the state to uphold current laws, while generating resources for stronger enforcement.

## PEER-TO-PEER COUNSELING AT THE DOC

*HB 2762 will provide opportunities for privileged peer dialogue after critical incidents*

DOC staff are often witness to terrible trauma inside the adult prison system. Studies have shown that corrections staff have PTSD rates on par with Afghanistan and Iraq combat veterans. HB 2762 would provide prison staff with opportunities to access a peer support team to have privileged conversations after critical incidents without the fear of disclosure. This will remove barriers that prevent corrections staff from getting the help they need. It will also create parity between the DOC and other county corrections and law enforcement jurisdictions.



## PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PRIVACY AND SAFETY

*Pass HB 1888 to exempt the birthdates of public employees from disclosure*

Our state has robust public disclosure laws, but ones that can expose the personal and financial information of public workers and their families to scam artists and those who may wish to do them harm. Employees working in public safety professions are especially vulnerable. HB 1888 would protect the safety and privacy of public employees and their families. The bill takes common-sense steps to safeguard personal data—like birthdays and data that reveal addresses—to protect public workers' safety and guard against identity theft and fraud.

Please contact Teamsters Local 117 Legislative Director Brenda Wiest at 206-459-8324 for more info.



# Make sure workers have a voice over gambling expansion in Washington State!

An essential voice has been left out of the current debate in the Legislature about how, or if, to expand gambling in Washington State – the voice of 1,700 workers. These workers have recently joined Teamsters 117 and have a newly-negotiated, first-time agreement with their employer – Maverick Gaming – that will provide them with greater access to healthcare, improved working conditions, and a defined-benefit pension for themselves and their families.

**By raising standards in the industry and strengthening protections for workers, the union is lifting up thousands of low-income, immigrant families across our state in an industry that has historically not been organized.**

Licensed, regulated cardrooms do not compete with the major tribal casinos in our state. They are small, locally-based businesses that cater to retirees, working-class, and immigrant communities. The bills currently under consideration in the Legislature (HB 2638/SB 6394) would carve out small, brick-and-mortar facilities from new public policy solutions that have the potential to boost state revenue by \$50 million and to increase the economic well-being of working people in communities across our state. Allowing sports betting could bring more customers inside the doors of these facilities and expand jobs to these workers.

*Give workers a voice in the process! Oppose gambling bills HB 2638/SB 6394 that will harm newly-organized workers in the gaming industry! This will be the single largest expansion of gambling in our state. It deserves careful consideration and a process that includes all stakeholders in the discussion.*



I have been working at Roman Casino for 2 years. I am a dealer and I like my job. I want a better quality of life

for my family. I think all the cardrooms should have opportunity to have sports betting. Our jobs are as important as anyone's.

**QUOC DUONG, Roman Casino**



I have been working at the Great American for 15 years as a dealer. I am a single mother of

3. Every decision concerning gaming is important to me.

Our voice should be heard.

**Davy Men, Great American Casino**