



Report from Olympia no.2

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Teamsters Local 117

News for Teamsters 117 - 2015 Legislative Session in Olympia



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RALLY FOR SHARED PROSPERITY : Second Lobby

Teamsters join hundreds of Union supporters on the Capitol steps



Teamsters rally at the State Capitol on February 20.

Members of Teamsters 117 joined hundreds of union members and their supporters on the steps of the State Capitol in Olympia on February 20 to rally for statewide paid sick leave,

protections against wage theft, an increase in the minimum wage, and wage increases for state employees, including 5600 state correctional employees.

The rally was organized to promote our **Shared Prosperity Agenda** designed to lift up middle class workers through public policy that is good for workers, good for families, and good for communities.

Teamsters Local 117 is part of a coalition of labor, community, and faith-based groups supporting efforts to rebuild the middle class, and protect and invest in jobs with dignity.

Learn more about the Shared Prosperity Agenda at www.Teamsters117.org.

Day a Success!

Members meet with their legislators



Taxicab operators gear up for their lobby visits on Feb. 24.

On February 24, more than 50 members of Teamsters 117 traveled to Olympia to meet with their legislators about issues that impact working families. The event - our second Lobby Day of the 2015 legislative session - was an unqualified success.

Most of the members who participated were taxi drivers and belong to the **Western Washington Taxi Cab Operators Association (WWTCOA)**.

"We want the same playing field for everybody," said WWTCOA member Amandeep Singh. "Why should we be paying expensive insurance, L&I, and city fees, while companies like Uber, Lyft, and Sidecar are not paying a penny? It's the same business. If we have to go through these things, they should have to go through them, too."

Taxi cab operators focused on two bills that would help create fairer working conditions for drivers in the industry. HB 1821 would give drivers the option to purchase L&I insurance, while HB 2131 would allow for-hire drivers to purchase new hybrid insurance products that will help ensure driver and public safety.

3 Bills to Lift Working Families

HB 1354, HB 1355, and HB 1356 give working families a fighting chance

People who work hard and play by the rules should be able to support their families. This basic principle is the cornerstone of the American Dream that created the middle class. Yet over the past few decades, incomes for those at the top have grown exponentially while hard-working families have seen their wages stagnate and their earning power decrease.

In Olympia this year, the state House of Representatives is poised to vote on three bills to address these issues. The bills would:

- **Protect workers who face retaliation** for speaking up about wage theft and simply trying to earn a hard day's wage (HB 1354).
- **Raise the state's minimum wage to \$12 per hour** over the next four years (HB 1355). More than half a million workers -- many of them working moms -- would benefit from this increase.
- **Allow workers to earn paid sick leave** to recover from an illness or take care of a sick child (HB 1356).

TAKE ACTION! Call the Legislative Hotline in Olympia at 1-800-562-6000 and tell your legislators to vote YES on all of these pro-working family bills!

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Olympia News Ticker

A day-by-day account of developments during the 2015 legislative session.

Feb. 11 - A bill (SB 5513) that would weaken our workers' comp system by allowing for the private sale of workers' comp insurance is exec'd out of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Labor.

Feb. 10 - Local 117 member Charlotte Berry testifies in support of SB 5678, a bill that would protect the identity of public employees in the event of public records requests.

Feb. 10 - Teamster taxi drivers testify before the House Labor Committee in support of HB 2018, a bill that would give drivers the ability to choose whether to participate in the State's L&I program.

Feb. 12 - Teamsters testify in support of HB 1349, a bill that would help protect the identity of public employees.

Feb. 13 - Teamster taxicab operators testify in support of HB 2131, a bill that would make hybrid insurance products available to for-hire drivers.

Feb. 20 - Members of Teamsters 117 join hundreds of union supporters for a rally on the Capitol steps to call for a shared prosperity agenda and policies that are good for working families.

Feb. 24 - SB 5045, a bill that would create a new process for eliminating union security clauses, is exec'd out of the Senate Ways and Means Committee.

Feb. 24 - Over 50 Teamsters meet in Olympia to lobby for policies that protect working families and help rebuild the middle class.

Feb. 25 - SB 5550, a bill that would preempt local taxi laws and give corporations like Uber special status is exec'd out of the Senate Transportation Committee.

Feb. 25 - A bill (HB 1718) that would expand retirement security for DOC nurses by including them in the Public Safety Employees' Retirement System moves out of the House Appropriations Committee and on to Rules. ●

PSERS BILL MOVES ON TO HOUSE RULES COMMITTEE

HB 1718 would provide greater retirement security for DOC nurses



Lynne Kunkle of MCC is a fan of HB 1718.

Good news from Olympia!

Our PSERS bill (HB 1718), which would expand the **Public Safety Employees' Retirement System** to include DOC nurses, has passed out of the House

Appropriations Committee and moved on to Rules.

This is an important step for the bill because it means that any day now the bill can be pulled from Rules for a final vote on the House floor.

With the Appropriations Committee's executive action, HB 1718 has an

excellent chance of passing out of the House. As expected, the challenge moving forward will be in the Senate.

To advance the bill in the Senate, we will need to work together to urge our Senators to support the bill. We will let you know when the time comes to take action.

In the meantime, we are looking for Local 117 members who would be directly impacted by the bill to tell their stories.

If you are a DOC nurse and can talk about dangerous incidents that you have faced at work or how a more secure retirement would help you and your family, please contact Political Coordinator Dustin Lambro at 1-888-872-3489 ext 1262 or email Dustin at dustin.lambro@teamsters117.org. ●

"I am committed to my work for the State but I don't believe that offenders or others should be able to find out where I live just because I am a public employee. Please support SB 5678. Our safety and quality of life depends on it."*

- CHARLOTTE BERRY

Dental Assistant, Clallam Bay Corrections Center

* Testifying on February 10 before the Senate Committee on Government Operations & Security in support of SB 5678, a bill that would protect the identity of public employees in the event of public records requests.

LOBBY DAY Both bills have moved out of their respective committees and they are likely on their way

for a vote on the House floor.

In addition to lobbying on taxi issues, Local 117 members talked with legislators about the need to fund the Department of Corrections' contract as well an important bill (HB 1718) that would provide greater retirement security for DOC nurses through the expansion of the **Public Safety Employees' Retirement System** (PSERS). On February 24, the PSERS bill was exec'd out of the House Appropriations Committee and has moved on to Rules.

Teamster correctional employees were in Olympia lobbying on both of those issues last month as well.

Lobby Day participants also expressed their support of our **Shared Prosperity Agenda**, designed to lift up middle class workers through passing statewide paid sick leave, protecting against wage theft, and increasing the state's minimum wage.

All in all, it was a great day in Olympia for members of Teamsters 117! Thanks to all of the members who attended and to Political Coordinator Dustin Lambro and Legislative Affairs Coordinator Brenda Wiest for their work in organizing the event. ●