



Report from Olympia no. 1

February 1, 2015

Teamsters Local 117

News for Teamsters 117 - 2015 Legislative Session in Olympia



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DOC TEAMSTERS HIT THE CAPITOL

Over 200 members meet with legislators about funding the DOC contract



DOC Teamsters gather on the steps of the Cherberg building in Olympia on January 27.

Over 200 Teamsters from the **Department of Corrections** converged on Olympia on January 27 for our 2015 DOC Teamsters Lobby Day. Members from all across the state met with dozens of legislators to talk about the importance of getting our DOC contract funded.

"Legislators need to understand that funding our contract is our most important priority," said Charles Cline, an officer at the Stafford Creek Corrections Center in Aberdeen.

Samantha Logan, an officer at the Clallam Bay Corrections Center, agreed:

"We came out to fight for what we rightfully deserve. We work 100% of our time with violent felons. We risk our lives

every day and never have the guarantee that we get to go home to our families." Both Logan and Cline were enthusiastic about the event.

"It was a great experience," Logan said. "We got some good outcomes. All three legislators we spoke with said that they fully support us. They also thanked us for the work that we do in keeping the community safe, keeping families safe, and keeping them safe. They said they admire the work that we do. It was good to hear that."

In addition to advocating for a fair DOC contract, members spoke about the need to include DOC medical staff in the PSERS retirement program and to pass a statewide paid sick days bill.

Thank you to all of the members who took time out of their busy schedules to attend the event. **Your voice makes all the difference!**

ACT NOW! Support Teamsters at DOC! Call the legislative hotline in Olympia at 1-800-562-6000 and urge your legislators to fund our DOC contract!

PAID SICK DAYS GAINS BIPARTISAN SUPPORT

HB 1356 passes out of the House Labor Committee on a vote of 4-3

An astounding **43 legislators** in the House have signed onto a bill that would allow workers in the State of Washington to earn at least **40 hours** of paid sick time off annually.

The bipartisan support for the legislation is indicative of broad public support. 74% of Americans support Paid Sick Leave.

In 2012, workers won paid sick days in

the City of Seattle and the City of Tacoma passed its own ordinance just last week.

In Olympia, workers packed a House hearing room and testified on the bill on January 26. On January 29, the bill passed out of the House Labor Committee on a vote of 4-3.

These are exciting developments. The next step in winning statewide paid sick

Teamsters Local 117
Lobby Day
Tues, Feb. 24
Make your voice heard!

Join us on Tuesday, **February 24** as we come together as one Union to advocate for policies that will boost our economy and protect the rights of working families.

As a part of our **Local 117 Legislative Agenda**, we'll be talking with lawmakers about the following issues and bills:

- **Getting our DOC contract funded**
- **The Equal Pay Opportunity Act**
- **The Paid Sick Days Act**
- **The Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA)**
- **Statewide Minimum Wage**

We will start the day at 9 A.M. with a training at the **Washington State Labor Council** office in Olympia (906 Columbia Street SW), and then head over to the Capitol to meet with our legislators. Lunch will be provided along with everything you need to be successful - no experience necessary!

For more information or to RSVP, visit **www.Teamsters117.org** or contact Teamsters 117 **Political Coordinator Dustin Lambro** at 206-794-2606.

leave is to move the bill out of the **House Appropriations Committee** so that it can eventually be heard on the House floor.

The real fight to ensure that over 1 million workers in the State of Washington don't have to choose between their jobs and their health will be in the Senate.

We will keep you posted when the time comes to let the Senate know where we stand.

Olympia News Ticker

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

-  **Jan. 12** - Legislative session kicks off in Olympia.
-  **Jan. 27** - Over 200 Teamster correctional employees meet with their legislators to discuss the need to fund their DOC contract.
-  **Jan. 27** - The Senate Ways and Means Committee conducts a work session on employee compensation. Teamster correctional employees pack the hearing room in support of their interest arbitration award.
-  **Jan. 28** - A bill (SB 5678) that would protect the identity of public employees in the event of public records requests is referred to the Committee on Government Operations and Security.
-  **Jan. 28** - An ALEC-backed bill (SB 5226) that would subject labor unions to burdensome administrative requirements passes out of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Labor.
-  **Jan. 28** - Another ALEC-inspired bill (SB 5045) that would enable a minority of workers to revoke their contract's union security clause passes out of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Labor.
-  **Jan. 29** - A statewide minimum wage bill (HB 1355) passes out of the House Committee on Labor by a vote of 4-3.
-  **Jan. 29** - A statewide Paid Sick and Safe Days bill (HB 1356) passes out of the House Committee on Labor.
-  **Jan. 29** - SB 5703, a bill that would include DOC medical staff into the state's PSERS retirement system is heard by the Senate Ways and Means Committee.
-  **Jan. 29** - The House Labor Committee hears testimony on the Family and Medical Leave Insurance Act, legislation that would provide support for families caring for newborn children or sick relatives.
-  **Feb. 2** - The Senate Transportation Committee hears SB 5550, a bill that would preempt local taxi laws and give corporations like Uber a special status. ●

CORPORATE-BACKED BILL AIMS AT SUBVERTING LOCAL TAXI LAWS

SB5550 would preempt local laws governing taxis and for-hire vehicles



Teamster taxi drivers before the legislative building in Olympia at a 2013 Lobby Day event.

to give so-called **Transportation Network Companies** (TNCs) like Uber and Lyft a special status that would allow these companies to subvert local laws. This would give TNCs an unfair, competitive advantage over taxi, limousine, and for-hire drivers.

Lawmakers need to know that it's not okay for TNCs to have their own special insurance, training, licensing, and background check requirements. All stakeholders in the industry should be treated equally and not be given special preference.

BILL WOULD GIVE CORPORATIONS "SPECIAL STATUS"

Over the last two years, **Teamster taxi drivers** have worked hard to help create a level playing field for all drivers in our region's personal transportation industry.

Representatives of the **Western Washington Taxicab Operators Association** (WWTCOA) successfully negotiated a policy in Seattle that gives taxi drivers a fighting chance to earn a living for themselves and their families.

Now some legislators in Olympia want

Senate Bill 5550 was heard by the Senate Transportation Committee on February 2. Taxicab operators contacted legislators on the committee and testified in opposition to the bill. If the bill makes it to the Senate floor for a vote, we will be calling on all Teamsters to support their Brothers and Sisters in the taxi industry and unite in opposition to this legislation.

For more information about SB5550, contact Business Representative Dawn Gearhart at 206-441-4860 ext. 1254. ●

Shared Prosperity: Rebuilding the Middle Class **Call the Legislative Hotline at 1-800-562-6000 now!**

Teamsters Local 117 is a part of a coalition of labor, community, and faith-based groups supporting efforts to rebuild the middle class, protect and invest in jobs with dignity, and defend against attacks that would weaken laws that protect working families. We are supporting public policy that would:

- End wage and revenue theft;
- Raise the State's minimum wage;
- Enact statewide paid sick days;
- Pass the Equal Pay Opportunity Act.

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD! Call the legislative hotline at 1-800-562-6000 and tell your State Senator that working families care about these issues.

For more information, visit www.Teamsters117.org. ●