



Report from Olympia No.2

January 13, 2012

# Teamsters Local 117

News for DOC Teamsters - 2012 Legislative Session in Olympia



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## Members testify against early release

Teamsters join other law enforcement groups in opposing HB 2144



DOC Teamsters testify against HB2144, a bill that would release inmates 150 days early.

Members of Teamsters Local 117 from the Department of Corrections went before lawmakers in a hearing in the House Ways & Means committee on Wednesday, January 11, to speak out against proposed legislation (HB 2144) that, if enacted, would release offenders 150 days early.

"Offenders would be released into our communities who are not ready to be there. The end result is that they will reoffend," said Local 117 Secretary-Treasurer, Tracey A. Thompson.

Sergeant Michael Boe (MCC), Officer John Christy (WSP), Sidney Clark (Classification Counselor - LCC) and Terry Hutchins (RN - MCC) joined Secretary-Treasurer Thompson in testifying against the bill.

Testimony from members of Local 117 was powerful and at times emotional.

Michael Boe, the Sergeant at MCC who found and attempted to resuscitate Officer Jayme Biendl, summed up the dangers of the early release proposal with his testimony:

"It was a model inmate who murdered Officer Jayme Biendl. Now, at the anniversary of Jayme's murder, to save the State money,

we are considering releasing more model inmates into the public."

Joining Teamsters in opposing the bill were the Prosecuting Attorney's Association of Washington State, the King County Sheriff's Office, and the Washington State Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC).

Many who testified stated their opposition

to a companion bill (HB 2143), which aims at reducing community supervision of offenders, including reducing supervision of sex offenders, from three to two years.

The hearing also provided Local 117 members with the opportunity to remind legislators of the devastating impact the ongoing budget cuts have had on staff safety at the DOC.

"We've cut everything we can possibly cut. They've taken away many of our positions and we have fewer officers looking out for us," said Terry Hutchins of MCC.

*Tremendous thanks to Michael, Sidney, Terry, and John for taking the time to attend this important hearing and speak out on behalf of other Teamsters at DOC!*

## Officer uniform bill off and running

With strong bipartisan support, bill (HB 2346) appears to have legs

Inmate-made uniforms have been the norm at DOC for years. Perhaps no longer.

Teamsters Local 117 has been hard at work in Olympia, garnering bipartisan support for legislation that would exempt correctional officers from wearing uniforms made by offenders.

The bill - HB 2346 - has been drafted, vetted by lawmakers, and referred to the Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Committee, with Representative Maureen Walsh (R - 16th District) as its prime sponsor.

Co-sponsors consist of an impressive mix of Rs and Ds, including Representatives:

Reykdal (D-22), Pearson (R-39), Hurst (D-31), Kristiansen (R-39), Nealey (R-16), McCune (R-2), Appleton (D-23), Orwall (D-33), Moscoso (D-1), Goodman (D-45), DeBolt (R-20), Rivers (R-18), Shea (R-4), Armstrong (R-12), Maxwell (D-41), Johnson (R-14), Springer (D-45), Darneille (D-27), Sells (D-38), Fitzgibbon (D-34), Eddy (D-48), Angel (R-26), Upthegrove (D-33), Kelley (D-28), Ryu (D-32), Stanford (D-1), Hudgins (D-11), Seaquist (D-26), and Ormsby (D-3).

Stay tuned, as the bill will likely have a public hearing in the next week or so. When it does, we will be calling on Teamsters at DOC to pack the hearing room to voice their support.

*As always, we will need officers who are prepared to testify. If you have samples of uniforms that you would like to show legislators, please talk to your Business Representative.*

### GET INVOLVED! LOCAL 117 POLITICAL ACTION MEETINGS

Thurston/Mason PAC - January 13

Grays Harbor PAC - January 19

King County PAC - January 25, 26

Pierce County PAC - January 27

Benton/Franklin PAC - February 8

Walla Walla PAC - February 10

Spokane PAC - February 17

Snohomish County PAC - February 28

For times and locations, check your Union's website at [www.teamsters117.org](http://www.teamsters117.org) or contact Political Action Coordinator, Lily Wilson-Codega at 206-794-2606.