



Report from Olympia no.2

Teamsters Local 117

News for DOC Teamsters - 2013 Legislative Session in Olympia

March 14, 2013



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LEGISLATORS FAIL TO ACT ON INTEREST ARBITRATION

“We will fight until we win those rights!”



DOC Teamsters rally in Olympia to push for interest arbitration legislation at Day of Action event on Jan. 10.

Despite strong support from House leadership and hundreds of phone calls and emails sent from correctional employees and other Local 117 members across the State, interest arbitration (HB1490) did not receive a vote on the House floor before final cutoff on Wednesday, March 13. This means that the bill is effectively dead for the remainder of the 2013 legislative session.

While this is certainly disappointing and calls into question the commitment of some legislators to the vital needs of our State's prison workers, your efforts to pass interest arbitration were not in vain. Your attendance at the Day of Action event on January 10, along with your outreach to legislators, sent a powerful message to Olympia that interest arbitration is an essential priority for Washington State correctional employees.

HB1490, though dead for now, will remain in the House Rules Committee where it can be revived next legislative session. You can be sure that Local 117 will be there to continue the fight for interest arbitration with the same resolve next year.

THANK YOU FOR TAKING ACTION!

Thank you to everyone who worked so hard and devoted countless hours trying to pass the bill. Because of you, every legislator in Olympia now knows that Washington State correctional employees and their Union demand the same fairness and rights granted to other public safety professionals. We will fight until we win those rights, and we will hold accountable those politicians who stand in the way.

HB1923 - PSERS RETIREMENT BILL

Local 117 has also been working to pass legislation (HB1923) that would include DOC and County Corrections medical staff under the PSERS retirement system. HB1923 passed out of the House 94 to 3 on March 8th and has been referred to Senate Ways and Means.

Contact the Legislative Hotline at 1-800-562-6000 and urge your legislators to support the bill.

Interest Arbitration Timeline

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER, 2012 –

Local 117 President John Searcy and Director of Corrections & Law Enforcement Michelle Woodrow meet with hundreds of correctional employees across the State at the Union's winter membership meetings to stress the importance of passing interest arbitration this legislative session. Local 117 launches a new website - www.DOCProtectsWA.org - where members can get information about the fight to win interest arbitration rights for correctional employees.

JANUARY 10, 2013 – Over 200 correctional employees and their supporters gather for a **Day of Action!** in Olympia to fight for interest arbitration. Over 80 Local 117 members meet with legislators in their offices to educate them on the challenges of corrections' work and to urge them to support interest arbitration.

JANUARY 14, 2013 – Legislative session begins in Olympia.

JANUARY 14-28, 2013 – Local 117 Lobbyist Teresita Torres lines up a bipartisan list of 17 legislators to sponsor interest arbitration bills in the House and the Senate.

JANUARY 28, 2013 – Interest arbitration bills for WA State correctional employees are introduced in both the House (HB 1490) and the Senate (SB 5387).

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TAXICAB OPERATORS FLEX THEIR MUSCLE IN OLYMPIA

Over 50 taxi drivers participate in Local 117's third lobby day



Teamsters taxicab operators at the 3rd Local 117 Lobby Day in Olympia on February 21.

The **Western Washington Taxicab Operators Association (WWTCOA)** showed its strength at the second Local 117 lobby day on February 21. Over 50 taxicab operators from all of the area's major taxi companies turned out to lobby legislators on two bills that would help resolve important issues facing drivers in the industry.

Working in teams of 8-12, WWTCOA members met with legislators throughout the day to educate them on a bill that seeks to protect taxi drivers from violators who are undercutting their fares, and a bill that would readjust the Labor and Industries rates currently paid by taxicab operators.

L&I RATE HIKES HURTING TAXI DRIVERS

"The L&I rates are too high. We have to pay \$522 every three months and most of us don't even have health insurance," said Mohamed Salah, a 13-year driver with Yellow Airport.

Salah is an elected member of the WWTCOA Leadership Council. The Leadership Council has been working closely with Teamsters 117 to ease the regulatory burden in the industry and improve working conditions for Puget Sound taxicab operators.

"We've been pushed to the edge and now we are lobbying with the Teamsters to get our rights back," said Parminder Cheema, a driver who has worked in the industry for 10 years.

The event was organized by Local 117's Legislative Affairs Department. Local 117 Political Action Coordinator Lily Wilson-Codega provided members with a short training prior to the visits, while intern Nathan Fitzgerald scheduled appointments with the legislators.

Taxicab operators were not alone in their efforts to educate legislators on issues they face at work. The WWTCOA members were joined by over twenty members of Teamsters Local 117 from other industries who promoted the two taxi bills as a part of a broader legislative agenda that was developed by the Union to support working families in the State of Washington.

COME TO OLYMPIA!

Local 117 Lobby Days

Teamsters 117 has set up two 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

- **March 21**
- **April 18**

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

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JANUARY 31, 2013 – Over 30 Local 117 members from across our Union - public sector, private sector, and the DOC – participate in Local 117's 2nd Lobby Day. Members meet with legislators and urge them to support interest arbitration.

FEBRUARY 7, 2013 – Over 40 correctional employees and their supporters attend the hearing on interest arbitration bill HB1490 before the House Labor & Workforce Development Committee. Several members and Local 117 staff provide testimony in support of the bill.

FEBRUARY 14, 2013 - Interest arbitration for correctional employees (HB1490) passes out of the House Labor & Workforce Development Committee on a vote of 5-4. The bill is referred to the House Appropriations Committee.

FEBRUARY 21, 2013 – Over 75 Local 117 members attend Local 117's 3rd Lobby Day in Olympia. Members urge legislators to support HB1490.

MARCH 1, 2013 – Despite strong support by numerous legislators in both the House and Senate, HB1490 does not receive a hearing in the House Appropriations Committee prior to fiscal cutoff on March 1. Local 117 explores alternative strategies for moving the bill forward.

MARCH 6, 2013 - Thanks to the work of Local 117 Lobbyist Teresita Torres and the determination of leadership in the House, interest arbitration for correctional employees (HB1490) is redirected to the House Rules Committee, making a House floor vote possible.

MARCH 13, 2013 - Interest arbitration fails to receive a House floor vote. HB1490 will remain in the House Rules Committee until the 2014 legislative session.