



2023 WSLC LEGISLATIVE REPORT



WHAT'S INSIDE

Welcome to the Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO's new Legislative Report!

As you can see, we have reformatted the 2023 edition of this publication, which the WSLC has produced for many decades, to try to make it both more comprehensive

and easier to navigate and read. It also should be easier to file and use as a reference than our previous tabloid newspaper-style report.

But no matter how comprehensive we try to be, there isn't room to describe every legislative effort of interest to our many affiliated unions and their members. We encourage all of you to read and subscribe to The Stand, the WSLC's awardwinning news service at

www.TheStand.org. There, you'll find many more details about what is happening in Olympia and how you can support proworker state policies.

We thank our exceptional Legislative

team of Sybill Hyppolite, John Traynor, Joe Kendo and intern Sierra Turner, plus Communications staffers David Groves and Sarah Tucker, for writing and compiling

this report. We are always interested in your feedback about the services the WSLC provides, including this Legislative Report. So contact us at **wslc@ wslc.org** and let us know what you like and what you'd like to see improved in this report.

Thanks for reading about the legislative advocacy of the WSLC and its affiliated unions as we continue to fight for "Better Jobs, Stronger Communities!"

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LEGISLATIVE REPORT for " Stro any In Solidarity,

2023

APRIL SIMS, President CHERIKA CARTER, Secretary Treasurer of *your* Washington State Labor Council

The WSLC Legislative Report is an annual publication of the Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO

SEATTLE: 321 16th Ave. South, 98144 • 206.281.8901 • toll-free 1.800.542.0904 OLYMPIA: 906 S. Columbia St. Suite 330, 98501 • 360.943.0608 — YAKIMA: 507 S. 3rd St., 98901 www.wslc.org — www.thestand.org

President: April Sims Secretary Treasurer: Cherika Carter

Vice Presidents:

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Administrative Staff:

Ingrid Chapman Emmanuel Flores Jessica Gallardo Paul Giering Dulce Gutiérrez Union Sybill Hyppolite Joe Kendo Chelsea Mason-Placel Rachel McAloon Kasi Marita Perreira Kathy Petruzzelli Kathy Petruzzelli Kathy Petruzzelli Sarah Tucker Sierra Turper	Workforce Deve Pro Ac Commu n, Community & Natur Governme k Workforce Dev Workforce Dev Racial & Gende Deve Racial & Gende Lead Workforce Dev Lead Workforce Dev	elopment Director ject HELP Director counting Manager inications Director ralization Organizer nt Affairs Director elopment Director elopment Director of Claims Specialist elopment Director egislative Director Digital Organizer
Sierra Turner	2023	Legislative Intern
Support Staff: Emmanuel Carrillo	Rashea Dickey Willa Kamakahi	Robert New Laurel Poplack



SESSION OVERVIEV

No matter what we look like or where we live in Washington state, most of us want similar things. We want good-paying jobs, an affordable place to live, health care for our families, a quality education system—all things that should be universal for working families, but are not.

Recognizing that too many families are struggling to attain these fundamental necessities, the "Better Jobs, Stronger Communities" 2023 legislative agenda of the Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO centered these priorities. And as we seek policies to improve people's lives, the WSLC examines all of its legislative advocacy through a racial equity lens to ensure no communities are left behind.

In large measure, the expanded proworker majorities in the Washington State Legislature responded to the labor movement's calls to action. As you will read throughout this 2023 Legislative Report, important progress was made on creating clean-energy jobs, improving workplace safety, funding public education, raising staffing standards at hospitals, increasing housing options, promoting apprenticeship, and importantly, keeping Washington's public employees from falling further behind the rising cost of living.

However, some critical pro-worker bills languished and failed to pass. They include legislation protecting rail workers' jobs when they get sick, creating supply chain transparency for major public works projects, allowing workers to decline attending anti-union "captive audience" meetings, and more. Plus, our state needs to continue efforts to rebalance our upside-down tax code by having the wealthiest pay their fair share to fund our state's critical needs.

The United Labor Lobby is a team of union lobbyists and advocates who meet throughout the session at the WSLC's Olympia office. Together, we share which bills and issues are in play, and how we can support one other. It's truly inspiring to work alongside these dedicated professionals.

But even more important are the many union members who come to Olympia during the legislative session to share their personal stories at hearings, or meet with their legislators, or demonstrate

Progress on Workers' Priorities

Here's the checklist of priority issues that were identified in the 2023 Legislative Agenda of the Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO:



Investing in Public Workers

All state employee raises and contracts were fully funded. Plus, collective bargaining rights were secured for employees of Washington Management Service (HB 1122) and academic student employees at regional four-year colleges and universities (SB 5238). See Page 8 for details.



Worker Protections

Lifted the ban on regulations to avoid workplace musculoskeletal injuries (SB 5217) and established new transparency on warehouse worker quotas (HB 1762). See Pages 5-7.

outside the State Capitol. Your voices are heard and are a key part of our success in advancing pro-worker policies.

Together, we are building a more just, equitable, and prosperous future for



Climate Jobs

Improved the siting and permitting processes for cleanenergy projects in Washington state (HB 1216). See Page 3.

More Housing Options

While some positive steps were taken, they were not of the magnitude needed to address the affordable housing crisis in our state. See Page 12.



Healthcare Safe Staffing

Increase accountability for hospital staffing plans and allow for corrective action by state, if needed. (SB 5236) See Page 7.

everyone in Washington. So let's celebrate our achievements in 2023 and rededicate ourselves to pushing even harder in 2024 for the pro-worker legislation that didn't pass... yet.



PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Last year, when Cherika Carter and I were campaigning for the honor to serve as executive officers of the Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO, we heard loud and clear from the council's affiliated unions on the issue of climate change.

We all want clean air and water for our children and our communities. We also want to ensure that workers and quality jobs are centered in the conversation about creating a clean-energy economy.



President's Column

APRIL SIMS

That's why the WSLC made the creation of quality climate jobs a priority in our 2023 agenda. As our state continues to lead the way on clean-energy policies, we want the Legislature to embrace the concept that jobs in this sector should be good-paying union jobs.

I'm happy to report a significant step forward was achieved in the 2023 session with the passage of HB 1216. Sponsored by Rep. Joe Fitzgibbon (D-West Seattle), this legislation will improve the siting and permitting for clean-energy projects, processes that are currently hindering the construction of the infrastructure necessary to achieve our state's climate policy goals. As our state's energy strategy evolves, these processes must also adapt to ensure timely, predictable reviews without denying impacted communities substantive opportunities for input.

HB 1216 achieved that balance, passed both houses and was signed into law by Gov. Jay Inslee. In addition to Rep. Fitzgibbon, our thanks go to Sen. Joe Nguyen (D-West Seattle) who led the charge in the Senate, and to the unions that comprise the Washington State Building and Construction Trades Council, which strongly supported HB 1216.

Thanks to strong advocacy from Machinists District Council 751 and the building trades, lawmakers approved SB 5447, sponsored by Sen. Andy Billig (D-Spokane), to promote the alternative jet fuel industry in Washington. Its passage is already paying dividends. Dutch company



SkyNRG announced in May it has chosen our state to locate an \$800 million plant to produce sustainable aviation fuel, and cited SB 5447 as a factor in its decision.

Legislators also approved a robust two-year \$9 billion state capital budget that steers significant sums into school construction and clean-energy projects. Modernizing our schools will reduce energy consumption. HVAC and heating upgrades, water improvements, and other energy-conservation investments will lower related carbon emissions, improve student and staff health, and create thousands of quality prevailing-wage construction jobs.

However, the Legislature missed a great opportunity when HB 1282, the Buy Clean/Buy Fair bill sponsored by Rep. Davina Duerr (D-Bothell), stalled in the Senate. Our state spends billions every year on construction materials for public infrastructure that are often manufactured overseas in countries with poor labor standards and inadequate environmental protections. HB 1282 would have created a pilot program to track the labor and environmental impact of those materials. It passed the House 57-40, but didn't get a Senate floor vote.

I also want to mention two important climate jobs efforts by the WSLC:

I'm proud to serve on the board of the Pacific Northwest Hydrogen Association.

On April 6, we submitted our region's application to the U.S. Department of Energy to become one of the Regional Clean Hydrogen Hubs under President Biden's Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. Billions of dollars in federal funding is at stake, with the potential to create tens of thousands of jobs in the Pacific Northwest. If our region becomes a clean low-carbon hydrogen production and distribution hub, our application has committed to ensuring that the jobs it creates pay livable wages and provide a glide path to the middle class.

In addition, the WSLC is working with Machinists District Council 751, the State **Building and Construction Trades Council** and other affiliates to launch Climate Jobs Washington. This new coalition will work to advance a proactive, worker-centered agenda on clean energy. The climate crisis is impacting working people first and worst. From extreme heat, to poor air quality from wildfire smoke, to worsening storms, it is workers - particularly workers of color in under-resourced communities who are bearing the brunt. And it's making racial and economic inequality worse.

By working together on legislative and other clean-energy priorities, I'm convinced that Washington's union movement can help create a fair and equitable economy that benefits us all.

SECRETARY TREASURER'S COLUMN



AFT Washington's 4/11/23 Day of Action

Education is essential. It's how we get the skills we need to build good lives for ourselves and our families. But for many of

us, getting an education has meant taking on crushing student loans.

While much of the national conversation on higher education costs is centered on student loan forgiveness, Washington's unions looked to tackle the



Treasurer's Column

root of the problem this session.

Labor fought to make education more affordable without sacrificing living wages for educators. Whether an apprenticeship, technical college certification, associates degree or a bachelors, all working people

Photo by RAFAEL MORATAYA

deserve access to higher education. And all educators deserve equitable, meaningful compensation.

Under the leadership of AFT Washington and the Washington Education Association, labor tackled higher education costs, securing more than \$55 million to fund bridge grants for students, as well as funding to expand access to Working Connections Childcare (SB 5225). We won increased funding for workforce development programs across industries, and secured funding for labor education through the Labor Education Research Center at South Seattle College and the Harry Bridges Center for Labor Studies at the UW. Together, our work is laying the groundwork for a pathway to free community and technical college in Washington.

We secured pay improvements for the working people who are the backbone

of our education system, including full funding of COLAs for educators and staff at CTCs and four-year institutions, as well as a modest retirement benefit increase for retirees not yet receiving the maximum benefit. We took steps to improve parttime/adjunct faculty pay equity, and will continue to fight for wage improvements as the Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges develops its pay equity plan.

And we successfully passed legislation to protect communications between workers and their unions (**HB 1186**) and require employers to share employee info with union representatives (**HB 1200**). These bills strengthen unions' power to advocate for workers, recognizing that membership in a union is the single best way to ensure good wages, institutional accountability to students, educators, and community – and a thriving higher education system that supports the needs of Washington state.

The bottom line: sky-high education costs and the resulting student loans stifle working folks potential, as well as our state's economic growth. We all benefit from lower education costs, less debt, more skilled technical workers, more pathways to associate or bachelor degrees, and more working people in our communities earning living wages.

Washington's labor movement will continue to advocate for access to education, respect and support for educators and educational staff, and equitable educational institutions welcoming to all.

K-12 wins on Special Education, COLAs

Washington's K-12 teachers, led by the Washington Education Association and other public school unions, scored some significant victories for students in 2023. They included:

Requested by Superintendent of Public Instruction Chris Reykdal and sponsored by Rep. Gerry Pollet (D-Seattle), **HB 1436** significantly boosts funding for students with disabilities. It includes \$371 million in additional funding for Special Education supports in the next two years. Although this covers just about 35-40% of the current Special Education funding gap, it's an important down payment toward full funding. HB 1436 also increased the cap from funding no more than 13.5% of a district's students for Special Education to 15%. This is progress, but labor will continue to advocate for eliminating that cap entirely.

In the past, teachers have had to advocate for increases to K-12 cost-of-living-adjustments each year when actual inflation outpaced legislative estimates. **SB 5650**, sponsored by Sen. Christine Rolfes (D-Bainbridge Is.), sets the 2023 K-12 COLA at 3.7% for 2023-24 and then starting in 2024-25 automatically sets the COLA at the prior calendar year's Implicit Price Deflator (IPD), a more precise measure of actual inflation.

Washington's unions also successfully supported bills to expand free meals for K-12 students (**HB 1238**), approve COLA increases for PERS and TRS Plan 1 pensions (**SB 5350**), and in supporting new worker protections described throughout this report that affect K-12 educators and employees.



WORKER PROTECTIONS



One of the cornerstone values of the labor movement is that all workers should be able to go to work, earn a living, and come home at the end of the day in the same condition as when they clocked in. We know, however, that too often that basic expectation is unrealized by workers.

The 2023 Legislature took several significant steps toward empowering safety on the job, as well as adopting policies to improve the experience of workers when injuries happen and they seek support from our workers' compensation system.

In 2022, Rep. Dan Bronoske (D-Lakewood) introduced HB 1837 to repeal the prohibition on the Department of Labor and Industries' ability to regulate hazards

that cause musculoskeletal injuries and diseases. These potentially careerending conditions, which account for about a third of all time-loss workers' compensation claims, are often caused by repetitive motion stress. This legislative effort came



BRONOSKE

directly from a group of cleaning workers, mostly women and people of color, who experience a high rate of these injuries. Convened by their unions - SEIU 6, 925, 1199NW and 1948, WEA, WFSE, AFT, UNITE HERE, and the Teamsters - and supported by Sheet Metal 66 and IBEW 191, these workers showed up to testify two years in a row to advance this cause. After surviving a nine-hour Republican filibuster in the House, HB 1837 was denied a Senate floor vote last year.

In 2023, the WSLC and other unions partnered with Sen. Manka Dhingra (D-Redmond) to introduce SB 5217, which passed the Senate and House, and was signed into law by Gov. Jay Inslee. This

version of the policy lifts the prohibition on L&I intervening to make workplaces safer, while providing guidance and limitations on how L&I applies any new rules. No general rules are allowed, limiting the department instead to regulating individual



DHINGRA

industries with injury rates twice a high or higher - than the statewide average. Cleaning workers, electricians, warehouse workers, drivers, school employees, and healthcare workers dug deep and pushed it over the finish line with strong support from labor committee Democrats in both chambers.

Importantly, 1837 (2022) and 5217 (2023) were developed and advanced with a strategy outlined in the WSLC's Racial Equity & Policy Toolkit, centering the needs and experiences of union members of color and ensuring that their working lives drove the bill's purpose and narrative.

When workers get injured on the job, how well they are able to focus on their recovery depends on how their workers' compensation claims are handled. Some bills aimed to improve that experience were also successfully delivered to Gov. Inslee's desk for his signature this year. HB 1068 (Bronoske) allows injured workers to record medical examinations

they are compelled to attend when their claims' validity is guestioned. Lawmakers heard testimony from the Plumbers and Pipefitters 598, Teamsters 117, the WSLC, and our partners at the Washington State Association for Justice about perfunctory examinations that led to unfavorable reports levied against workers in appeals hearings. By allowing recording, third party doctors not of workers' choosing will be more likely to take the time and care required when examining injured workers.

Another Bronoske bill, HB 1521, requires that self-injured Third Party Administrators, the contractors who manage employers' in-house workers' compensation programs when they opt out of the state program, be held to a "good-faith and fairdealing" standard when managing public sector claims. Elevated by the Washington State Council of Fire Fighters, and with a heroic showing by IAFF 452 of Vancouver specifically, it originally would have applied to all workers of self-insured employers, both public and private sector. But the bill was amended in the Senate to apply only to workers in the public sector where selfinsurance is allowed, like cities, counties, and school districts. While it is unfortunate that the Legislature ultimately adopted a two-tier standard for injured workers - one of which implies that certain workers are not entitled to fairness - HB 1521 is a marked improvement upon the status quo. and will demonstrate proof-of-concept in support of future expansion.

Healthcare workers, front-and-center throughout the pandemic, have been repeatedly exposed to traumatic experiences with patients and from the chaotic grind of performing a critical job during a global emergency while under-staffed and over-worked. SB 5454, sponsored by Sen. Annette Cleveland (D-Vancouver) and supported by the Washington State Nurses Association and SEIU Healthcare 1199NW, recognizes their committed service by acknowledging Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder as a compensable occupational disease and establishing a presumption that a PTSD diagnosis is caused by traumatic exposures on the job. Similar to those presumptions assumed for fire fighters, this recognition will ease the experience of many healthcare workers who seek to heal and return to their critical, life-saving work.



WORKER PROTECTIONS

All workers in Washington state deserve safety, dignity and humanity on the job. But in the era of e-commerce and prompt home delivery, some warehouse workers' already fast-paced and physically demanding work has been accelerated, leading to unsafe conditions and costly, debilitating injuries.

HB 1762, sponsored by Rep. Beth Doglio (D-Olympia), will require companies operating large warehouses to inform workers what their production quotas are and to ensure that their employees do not work through their rest, bathroom or meal breaks to meet those expectations. The bill was strongly supported by Teamsters Joint Council 28 and Local 117.

HB 1762 passed the House, but was amended by the Senate to strip the bill of enforcement provisions and to exclude many warehouse workers from its protections. At the urging of labor and other workers' advocates, the House refused to concur with those changes and the Senate eventually passed the bill with fewer exemptions, and it was signed it into law.

"Congratulations to

Gov. Jay Inslee, Rep. Beth Doglio, and everyone who worked so hard to get HB 1762 enacted into law," said John Scearcy, Teamsters Local 117 Secretary-Treasurer. "For too long, warehouse workers have been risking grievous



DOGLIO

bodily harm in order to not lose their jobs, creating a sense of fear every time they clock in. This will help ensure that nobody is required to meet a quota that risks their



health, safety, ability to take breaks, or do something as simple as use the bathroom."

Some other important worker protection bills that passed into law in 2023:

Our state highways are some of the most dangerous job sites in the state, especially for those who build, maintain, and improve this critical infrastructure. SB 5272 (Sen. Marko Liias) authorizes the use of automated traffic safety cameras to help discourage speeding and traffic violations in state highway work zones.

■ Union stewards are a key way to resolve workplace disputes ranging from protocols to harassment. But these member communications have no privacy protections and union records can, in some cases, be subpoenaed by employers or others. This has a chilling effect on workers and negatively impacts unions' ability to dutifully represent members. **HB 1187**

(Rep. David Hackney) is a common-sense fix to this problem, adding "union representative" to entities like attorneys, peer-topeer counselors, and advocates for domestic violence victims who do not have to disclose their private conversations.



HACKNEY

Now Washington has joined other states that ensure a right to privacy in communications between workers and their unions.

No vote on banning captive audience meetings

It takes a lot of courage to fight for a better, more fair workplace by joining together with coworkers in a union. Unfortunately, too many workers are compelled to attend coercive captive audience meetings during an organizing campaign, in which companies threaten employees and tell them how they should vote.

SB 5417, the Employee Free Choice Act sponsored by Sen. Karen Keiser (D-Des Moines), would protect workers who decline to attend these coercive meetings from retaliation or termination. It didn't get a vote this year. As more states pass similar legislation -- Minnesota just joined Wisconsin and Oregon in protecting workers -- look for this effort to continue in Washington state.



WORKER PROTECTIONS



This year, healthcare workers won major progress on the issue of safe healthcare staffing with the passage of **SB 5236**. Supported by healthcare workers, their unions, patient advocates and key



legislative advocates like prime sponsor Sen. June Robinson (D-Everett), this legislation will begin addressing the ongoing hospital staffing crisis.

This bill was supported by the WA Safe + Healthy coalition of

the Washington State Nurses Association (WSNA), UFCW 3000 and SEIU Healthcare 1199NW, which represent more than 75,000 healthcare workers in Washington. Its passage was a legislative priority for the Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO

The final bill reflected a compromise between healthcare unions and the state hospital association. While the original bill would have established statewide safe staffing standards, the final compromise will strengthen accountability to staffing plans and allow for corrective action by state agencies, if needed. It also expands meal and rest break laws to include all frontline staff, closes loopholes to make mandatory overtime laws fully enforceable, and ensures hospitals follow the law.

"We're in a staffing crisis because of massive burnout caused by years of unmanageable working conditions due to short-staffing," said WSNA Executive Director David Keepnews. "To begin to address the staffing crisis, we need to address

the underlying burnout. Strengthening accountability to staffing plans, as well as expanding and enforcing existing overtime and breaks laws, are key to improving healthcare working conditions."

A February poll of healthcare workers found that 49% were likely to leave the field within the next few years. Among those likely to leave, 68% said short staffing was one of their



primary reasons.

Legislators heard overwhelming support for safe staffing legislation this session. Tens of thousands of healthcare workers and patient advocates signed up in support of SB 5236 during hearings and sent emails to their lawmakers.

"This session made it abundantly clear that Washington voters – patients

- understand that staffing standards are the solution our healthcare workers have called for, and they've shown their overwhelming support," said Jane Hopkins, president of SEIU Healthcare 1199NW. "We're glad legislators have listened, and while this bill establishes a different path to safe staffing than the one healthcare workers originally called for, it's a step in

the right direction after years of inaction by hospital executives."

WSNA, UFCW 3000 and SEIU Healthcare 1199NW held briefings across Washington state in May to discuss the details of the new law and its impact on quality patient care. They outlined next steps for implementation, including ways in which they intend to work together to hold hospital executives accountable.

Half of Washington healthcare workers say they're likely to leave healthcare.

Among those likely to leave, the vast majority said short-staffing was one of their primary reasons, more than any other

They're calling on lawmakers to pass safe staffing standards.



INVESTING IN PUBLIC WORKERS



Working during the pandemic has been an extreme challenge for most workers, including those in the public sector. They have faced unique challenges providing essential public services, from behavioral health to public safety, from direct patient care to workplace standards enforcement, from educating our kids to managing the public health response to COVID-19 itself, and much more.

■ The 2023 Legislature had several opportunities to acknowledge that commitment and largely did so, and that began with the ratification and full funding of the **state employee collective bargaining agreements**. State workers negotiate their CBAs with the Governor's Office, and must seek ratification of its terms and funding from the Legislature. This has not always been a given. Once, a governor reneged on the agreement by failing to certify the agreements as financially feasible shortly after they were negotiated.

In 2023, cost-of-living adjustments of 7% in addition to recruitment and retention premiums for certain classifications, as well as vaccination booster bonuses were included by lawmakers in the biennial budget. By ratifying these agreements, legislators acknowledged the hard work and dedication that these mission-critical public employees demonstrate every day.

Because of this "Union Difference," more public-sector workers are seeking representation, but many still lack the right to join together to negotiate for better pay and working conditions.

HB 1122, sponsored by Rep. Beth Doglio with its companion bill by Sen. Sam Hunt, extends bargaining rights to certain supervisors within the Washington Management Service. Until now, these state employees have been asked to implement state policies without a voice in their own working conditions.

■ In a similar spirit, **SB 5238** (Sen. Rebecca Saldaña and Rep. Mary Fosse) extends the same right to student academic employees at the regional four-year universities, like Western Washington University, so they will have the same rights as their counterparts at the University of Washington and Washington State University. Already, thousands of academic and operational student employees at WWU are organizing unions, demonstrating the need to ensure that these workers have this basic right, whether or not they are also taking classes.

• Once a union is certified, it takes work to maintain and grow it, and to ensure that bargaining unit members are engaged and informed of their rights. To that end, **HB 1200** (Rep. Emily Alvarado and Sen. Javier Valdez) will ensure that unions with representational responsibilities will receive the information they need from management to adequately represent the workforce in a consistent and reasonable way. Without this law, local government employers in particular do not always provide bargaining unit member information to unions in a workable way. HB 1200 establishes minimum standards to ensure that document format, and negative employer sentiment do not get in the way of effective representation.

■ Public employee retirement systems also made gains this year. **HB 1055** (Rep. Drew Stokesbary and Sen. Kevin Van De Wege) extends the Public Safety Employees' Retirement Plan to public safety telecommunicators, like police dispatchers, so that their retirement options better reflect the physical and emotional stresses of their jobs. Current retirees in PERS 1 and TRS 1, pensions now closed to new members, were given a much-needed costof-living adjustment via **SB 5350** (Sen. Steve Conway and Rep. Stokesbary).

■ **HB 1533** (Rep. Sharlett Mena) exempts from public disclosure certain per-

sonal identifying information of state employees or their dependents who are survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, harassment or stalking. Many current and former public employees from WFSE, WPEA/UFCW 365, WEA, SEIU 925 and other



MENA

unions testified alongside victims' advocate groups about the unnecessary danger survivors face when their abusers can easily locate them at work. Even though public disclosure requests by media organizations are exempted, newspapers and broadcasters opposed this bill. In the end, legislators saw the importance of protecting public employees from further danger and approved this meaningful legislation.

What didn't pass

Unfortunately, some bills important to fire fighters, state employees, teachers, public health workers, social workers, and others failed to advance, particularly those geared toward raising adequate revenue. They included:

■ SB 5770 (Sen. Jamie Pedersen) would have lifted the 1% cap on property tax growth—a critical revenue source for sorely underfunded local governments, like counties. This leaves critical local services without the support necessary to meet our communities' needs.



BUILDING TRADES

The 2023 legislative session saw the entire labor movement engaged in strong advocacy on behalf of their members. Building and construction trades were particularly active, promoting significant policies to advance the industry and to protect workers.

When voters approved Initiative 1433 for paid sick leave in 2016, many workers in the construction industry were left out because the policy did not account for multi-employer, dispatched work. SB 5111, sponsored by Sen. Karen Keiser and supported by Operative Plasterers' and Cement Masons' International Association (OPCMIA) Local 528 and multiple other building trades affiliates, provides construction workers with compensation for unused leave when they don't meet the 90-day requirement for paid sick leave eligibility. Starting Jan. 1, 2024, such workers must be paid the balance of their accrued and unused sick leave upon separation. This is a huge win for those workers.

■ OPCMIA 528 was also successful in advancing **HB 1323** (Rep. Dan Bronoske), which requires anyone applying fire-resistant materials to be certified by the Department of Labor and Industries after training by an approved educator. This will guarantee the effective application of these materials by certified installers, protecting the public and workers alike.

■ Laborers International Union of North America successfully advocated for **SB 5272** (Sen. Marko Liias), which allows the use of automated traffic safety cameras in highway work zones. These cameras are needed to slow drivers and protect the safety of workers who do this dangerous and critical work.

■ HB 1176 (Rep. Vandana Slatter) creates a Washington Climate Corps network to provide climate-related service opportunities for young adults and veterans. Supported by the Washington State Building and Construction Trades Council (WSBCTC) and many other WSLC affiliates, the bill also establishes a Clean Energy Technology Workforce Advisory Committee to review workforce and business issues within the clean energy sector, and will make recommendations to prevent workforce displace-



Ironworkers 86 Political Director Heather Kurtenback (center) and Apprentices Michael Swanson and Tara Davis testified to support child care for apprentices.

ment and support job creation.

■ In 2018, SB 6126 was passed to require anyone wishing to obtain Washington EL01 journey-level electrical certification to have completed a state-registered electrical apprenticeship. The law was set to go into effect on July 1 of this year, but the timeline was too short for the industry

to adjust, leaving some workers behind. This year, IBEW collaborated with L&I and employers to pass **SB 5320** (Sen. Rebecca Saldaña), which establishes a temporary pathway for current trainees to obtain journeylevel electrician certifica-



SALDAÑA

tion without completing an apprenticeship program through July 1, 2026. A sound compromise, this protects the industry, the public, and those who began training since the original policy was adopted.

■ HB 1525 (Rep. Mary Fosse) improves childcare access for first-year apprentices in state-registered apprenticeships. Spearheaded by Ironworkers 86, SEIU 925 and the WSBCTC, this expands Working Connections Child Care eligibility to include the first 12 months of enrollment in a state-registered apprenticeship program. It drew strong bipartisan support and will assist hundreds of workers each year.

 Apprenticeship utilization requirements ensure that contractors staff projects with a certain percentage of workers enrolled in state-registered apprenticeships. This benefits workers and the industry by training the workforce of tomorrow. HB 1050 (Rep. Marcus Riccelli) set out to expand apprentice utilization requirements to municipalities and subcontractors. The amended version that was approved limits the expansion to municipalities only. The bill also includes a study on these requirements' affect on women- and minority-owned businesses' ability to access public works contracts.

■ **HB 1458** (Rep. Clyde Shavers), supported by Ironworkers 86, set out to remove the waiting week for unemployment insurance for ap-

prentices, which denies them support during mandatory classroom instructions. It was amended to create a workgroup at the Employment Security Department that includes Building Trades affiliates to report back to the Legislature about how to improve the system.

What didn't pass

■ **HB 1067** (Bronoske), championed by the Boilermakers 242 and 502, would have required that journey-level workers employed by a petroleum refining or petrochemical manufacturing contractor or subcontractor be paid community prevailing wages. It didn't make it out of the House, but work will continue on this bill.

■ SB 5418 (Sen. Steve Conway) would have ensured that all public dollars used on construction in any form (grants, loans, tax incentives) would require prevailing wages and apprentice utilization if a certain dollar threshold was met. It failed to make it out of the Senate, but we will continue to work on advancing this policy.



RAIL & MANUFACTURING



The derailment of a freight train carrying hazardous materials in East Palestine, Ohio, on Feb. 3, 2023 – and a narrowly averted strike by freight train workers over lack of sick leave in December 2022 – have put a renewed national focus on train safety and staffing.

Since the passage of Initiative 1433 in 2016, more than a million workers in Washington state have secured access to paid sick and safe leave. This year, the Legislature took steps to bridge gaps in coverage for some workers, like those in the building and construction trades (see SB 5111 on the previous page).

But there's another group of workers who have yet to be brought under the protection of sick leave standards: Washington's dedicated rail workers represented by SMART-TD and BLET-Teamsters. That's partly due to a combination of complex federal laws and certain legacy exemptions

in our state's labor code. **SB 5267** (Sen. Patty Kuderer) and **HB 1548** (Rep. Timm Ormsby) attempted to fix that, though neither made it to the governor's desk.

Railroaders work long hours, with short notice, and their employers

short no- KUDERER

— major rail carriers like BNSF and Union Pacific — famously balked at the notion of securing sufficient, reliable, unpaid time off during illnesses or for short-term family care. Negotiations broke down so irreconcilably that the President and Congress stepped in to impose a contract, which also failed to deliver on these needs.

SB 5267 was simple. It would have prohibited railroad employers from taking adverse action against an employee for taking unpaid leave due to illness or injury, and provided modest enforcement provisions at the state Department of Labor and Industries. This most basic of protections – the ability to call-in sick without fear of retaliation - was too high a hill to climb for railroad bosses and some of their friends in the Legislature. Despite a strong bipartisan 42-7 vote in the Senate, Republicans in the House weighed it down with amendments during a tight floor calendar, leaving insufficient time for advance the bill. This effort to stymie the bill was aided in part by opposition from certain House Democrats whose delaying efforts laid the groundwork for this strategy's success.

Rail workers occasionally get sick like anybody else, and they should be able to stay home to protect their coworkers and allow themselves time to recover. In a truly just world, they should also be able to do so with no loss of pay. We may not be there yet, but the literal *least* that lawmakers can do is prevent discipline and termination for being out sick. The labor community will come back in 2024, linking arms with our siblings at the railyard, to deliver on this most basic need.

Manufacturing bills

The 2023 session featured one major step forward and one missed opportunity on improving and strengthening Washington state's manufacturing sector.

The good news...

The Washington Clean Manufacturing Leadership Act, SB 5269 (Sen. Sharon Shewmake), creates a statewide industrial strategy to strengthen existing manufacturing and capture new industries, like the offshore wind supply chain. The federal Inflation Reduction Act made an unprecedented \$50 billion investment in making the U.S. industrial sector the cleanest in the world. SB 5269 tasks the state Department of Commerce with tracking that funding and supporting manufacturers in applying. This will help ensure that Washington takes full advantage of this opportunity to make the Evergreen State a leader in industrial transformation and in preserving and growing high-wage manufacturing jobs.

...and the bad news

For three years, Rep. Davina Duerr (D-Bothell) and a coalition of unions, environ-

mental groups and manufacturers have fought to pass a Buy Clean, Buy Fair bill. **HB 1282** and its Senate companion, **SB 5266** (Sen. Lisa Wellman) would promote the competitiveness of Washington and U.S. manufacturers and



DUERR

incentivize them to produce low-carbon products and treat workers fairly. It would increase transparency on the environmental impacts and labor standards of building material suppliers for large state projects.

Although the bill was significantly scaled back and labor-standards reporting was removed in the House, it passed that chamber and still stood to make a positive impact by providing transparency on how suppliers are managing their supply chains. But the amended version failed to advance from Senate Ways and Means. Advocates will continue the fight next year.

Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO

HEALTHCARE & FAMILY POLICIES

The 2023 Legislature approved some important advancements in healthcare policy, but also failed to enact some critical protections that would have benefitted Washington working families.

In recent years, unscrupulous pharmaceutical companies have raised the price of insulin, harming the health and finances of people with diabetes. Thankfully in 2022, the Legislature passed a bill to temporarily cap the cost of insulin to \$35 for a 30-day supply, but only for one year.

This year, **SB 5729**, sponsored by Sen. Karen Keiser (D-Des Moines), passed to make this cost protection permanent. This applies to state employees, school employees and the Health Benefit Exchange.

HB 1678 (Riccelli) establishes the mid-level role of dental therapists with the ability to serve in federally qualified health centers. This expands a model that Tribes have successfully been using since 2017 to increase access to dental care.

What didn't pass

■ SB 5632 (Keiser) would have helped striking workers maintain their healthcare coverage for the duration of strikes. It passed the Senate 29-19, but failed to advance in the House.

■ SB 5174 (Wellman) was a disappointing failure to deliver health care for school bus drivers who are employed by contractors. Their coworkers who are employed directly by school districts get school employee benefits, but those who work for contractors do not. SB 5174 would have created parity in benefits so that people doing the same work get the same access to care. SB 5174 passed both the House



Sen. Karen Keiser and President April Sims at the WSLC Legislative Conference.

and Senate, but the Senate refused to agree to the changes made in the House that clarified the intent of the bill. The WSLC will continue fighting for parity to help retain this important workforce.

A suite of legislative proposals aimed at creating fair health prices for Washingtonians was introduced, but failed to pass:

■ HB 1508 (Macri) / SB 5519 (Robinson) would give the Healthcare Cost Transparency Board, which was established in 2020 and is working to understand what is causing high healthcare spending, more authority to control healthcare costs. HB 1508 passed the House 57-38, but failed to advance in the Senate.

■ The Prescription Drug Affordability Board was created in 2022, but pharmaceutical industry pressure watered down the law. **HB 1269** (Riccelli) would remove limitations on the drugs eligible for review and consideration of threshold pricing.

■ Health system mergers and acquisitions often result in higher prices for patients, lower quality of care, and fewer health services in our communities. **HB 1263** (Simmons) and **SB 5241** (Randall), the Keep Our Care Act, would prevent consolidation that creates high prices or reduces access to affordable care. The bill also creates more oversight for health equity.

■ Large, consolidated health systems can drive healthcare prices up by using unfair negotiation tactics. **SB 5393** (Robinson) and **HB 1379** (Macri) would stop anticompetitive clauses in contracts between health carriers and hospitals.

More policies that support our families

Current unemployment insurance law makes it difficult for workers with caregiving responsibilities at home to find suitable work at times or locations that work for their families.

HB 1106, sponsored by Rep. Mary Fosse (D-Everett), was approved to adjust the "good cause quit" standards to accommodate modern family care giving needs.

Lawmakers improved our state's Paid Family and Medical Leave program by passing **SB 5286** (Robinson), which will ensure PFML is stable and ready to serve all eligible Washingtonians through a more consistent funding methodology. **SB 5225** (C. Wilson) allows access to Working Connections Child Care, the state's subsidized childcare program, to all children regardless of their immigration status. However, **HB 1095** (Walen)/**SB 5109** (Saldaña), providing benefits akin to unemployment insurance to cover workers not otherwise covered by the program due to their immigration status, failed to pass.

HB 1238 (Riccelli) set out to provide free access to all school meals to ensure students have a solid foundation for learning and health. It was amended/passed to expand access to free meals to 90,000 students who previously did not qualify.

2023 WSLC Legislative Report

MORE HOUSING OPTIONS



In the 2023 session, multiple efforts were made to address the housing crisis facing working families in every region of Washington state. This lack of housing availability is driving up costs and is driving people further and further from where they work, bringing their cost of living up as they commute longer distances.

These costs disproportionately impact lower wage workers and communities of color. In addition, racially exclusive property covenants excluded generations of Black and other people of color from owning property, which is a common way middle-class families build and share generational wealth.

HB 1474, sponsored by Rep. Jamila Taylor (D-Federal Way), creates the covenant homeownership account and

program to address the history of housing discrimination due to racially restrictive real estate covenants. This historic bill is the first-in-the-nation statewide reparation law. It will provide mechanisms and support for communities that have



TAYLOR

been discriminated against for generations to qualify for financing and purchase a home. Recognizing that we still have a long way to go, this law is an amazing step in the right direction. **HB 1110**, sponsored by Rep. Jessica Bateman (D-Olympia), allows greater housing density, particularly near transit

corridors. It requires most cities to allow at least duplexes in lots zoned for single-family, detached housing. Additionally, cities cannot require offstreet parking as a condition of permitting within a half-mile of a major transit stop. This is an



BATEMAN

excellent step forward in prioritizing living spaces over parking spots while allowing for more construction of housing units.

Positively, both chambers also agreed to fund some important housing programs:

- Housing / Homeless \$26.5 million
- Emergency Housing \$140.8 M
- Permanent Supportive Housing \$25 M
- Encampment Response \$60 M
- Services Contracts \$45.6 M
- Local Housing Programs \$18 M

What didn't pass

■ **HB 1628** by Rep. Frank Chopp (D-Seattle) would have created a new Real Estate Excise Tax (REET) rate of 4% for real estate sales of \$5 million or more. The state's REET was just 1.28% before 2019, when a graduated rate was applied to sales, allowing local governments to

collect their own REET. HB 1628 could have generated an estimated \$22 million in the upcoming two-year state budget and \$177 million for the 2025-27 biennium, money dedicated to addressing the shortage of affordable housing in Washington. HB 1628 did not advance this year, but momentum is building to get the policy right in the interim so we can continue to address the lack of affordable housing for Washington's working families

HB 1167 by Rep. Davina Duerr (D-Bothell) would have prohibited cities from imposing any development regulations for middle housing that were more restrictive than those for detached single-family residences, with a few exceptions. It also would have required the Department of Commerce to establish and maintain preapproved accessory dwelling unit (ADU) plans and provide them to counties and cities. This bill was intended to streamline permitting for such buildings and could have prevented homogenous zoning laws from being enforced in certain cases that limit affordable housing options. It passed the House unanimously but got hung up in Senate Rules and never received a vote.

SB 5466 aimed to promote transitoriented housing development. Sponsored by Sen. Marko Liias (D-Everett), it would have provided development targets near light rail and bus rapid transit stations and given local jurisdictions flexible tools to meet these targets in ways that best suit their communities. Expanding housing near transit areas and other transitoriented development would not only have created more housing units for workers, it would have created thousands of construction jobs to see those areas developed. It passed the Senate on a bipartisan 40-8 vote but died in House Rules.

Hopefully, all of these bills that failed to advance in 2023 will return next session in better position to be approved.





Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO 2023 Legislative Voting Record

VOTE DESCRIPTIONS

ESHB 1050 (Riccelli) – **Creates** more family-wage apprenticeship opportunities by guaranteeing all public works contracts use apprentices for 15% of labor hours, phased in over the next five years. (Right vote: YES)

Passed House 57-38; passed Senate 29-18; signed by Gov. Inslee.

SHB 1068 (Bronoske) – In workers' compensation claims, workers are often subjected to compelled examinations by third-party doctors. SHB 1068 **allows workers to record compelled medical exams** to protect their rights. (Right vote: YES)

Passed House 67-29; passed Senate 31-16; signed by Gov. Inslee.

ESHB 1106 (Fosse) – Updates unemployment insurance "good cause" definitions to grant benefits to workers forced to leave a job to care for a child or vulnerable adult, or due to the death, illness or disability of a family member. (Right vote: YES)

Passed House 56-41; passed Senate 26-20; signed by Gov. Inslee.

E2SHB 1110 (Bateman) – The "middle housing" bill allowing more duplexes and fourplexes to be built to create more affordable housing options for working families. (Right vote: YES)

Passed House 79-18; passed Senate 35-14; signed by Gov. Inslee.

2SHB 1122 (Doglio) – Grants collective bargaining rights for certain Washington Management Service employees. (Right vote: YES)

Passed House 88-8; passed Senate 40-9; signed by Gov. Inslee.

2SHB 1151 (Stonier) – Fertility treatment is a privilege only affluent Americans can afford. To address this inequity, 2SHB 1151 requires health plans sold in Washington to **cover fertility services**. (Right vote: YES)

Passed House 65-30; but failed to get a floor vote in the Senate.



ESHB 1187 (Hackney) – Protects the confidentiality of communication between members and their union. (Right vote: YES)

Passed House 96-0; passed Senate 34-14; signed by Gov. Inslee.

SHB 1200 (Alvarado) – Ensures that unions can deliver on their duty to represent all employees, by requiring that **public employers provide employee contact information**. (Right vote: YES)

Passed House 57-39; passed Senate 29-20; signed by Gov. Inslee.

E2SHB 1216 (Fitzgibbon) – Makes improvements to energy facility siting and permitting processes to ensure timely, predictable reviews. (Right vote: YES)

Passed House 78-18; passed Senate 30-18; signed by Gov. Inslee.

ESHB 1533 (Mena) – Exempts certain personal identifying information from Public Records Act disclosure if public employees (or their dependent) are survivors or domestic violence, sexual abuse, stalking, or harassment. (Right vote: YES)

Passed House 57-41; passed Senate 48-0; signed by Gov. Inslee.

2SHB 1762 (Doglio) – Protects employees of large warehouses by requiring companies to disclose production quotas and ensure workers aren't forced to work through their rest, bathroom or meal breaks. (Right vote: YES)

Passed House 56-42; passed Senate 28-21; signed by Gov. Inslee.

ESSB 5111 (Keiser) – Due to the nature of their work, many construction workers are unable to utilize the state's paid sick leave law. This provides **flexibility so construction** workers can access paid sick leave. (Right vote: YES)

Passed House 98-0; passed Senate 46-0; signed by Gov. Inslee.

ESSB 5217 (Dhingra) – The state is prohibited from adopting common sense rules to avoid work-related musculoskeletal disorders. ESSB 5217 allows L&I to adopt regulations to avoid musculoskeletal injuries. (Right vote: YES)

Passed House 51-46; passed Senate 27-21; signed by Gov. Inslee.

SSB 5238 (Saldaña) – Grants collective bargaining rights for academic student employees at regional 4-year universities. (Right vote: YES)

Passed House 51-46; passed Senate 27-21; signed by Gov. Inslee.

2SSB 5269 (Shewmake) – Studies manufacturing opportunities to identify the best sectors to accelerate production of materials necessary for our energy transition. (Right vote: YES)

Passed House 95-2; passed Senate 28-14; signed by Gov. Inslee.

2SSB 5454 (Cleveland) – Extends workers' compensation **protections for healthcare workers with PTSD** due to regular traumas experienced on the job. (Right vote: YES)

Passed House 57-40; passed Senate 30-18; signed by Gov. Inslee.

ESB 5650 (Rolfes) – Grants salary inflationary increases for K-12 employees. (Right vote: YES)

Passed House 62-34; passed Senate 30-18; signed by Gov. Inslee.

SB 5768 (Keiser) – At Gov. Inslee's direction, the Department of Corrections purchased a 3-year supply of mifepristone. SB 5768 allows the DOC to distribute/sell it to clinics, guaranteeing uninterrupted access to safe abortion medication in our state. (Right vote: YES)

Passed Senate 28-18; passed House 55-40, signed by Gov. Inslee.

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22 Rep. Beth DOGLIO (D)	\checkmark \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark	$\checkmark \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark$	$\checkmark \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark$	\checkmark \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark	100 100
44 Rep. Brandy DONAGHY (D)	\checkmark \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark	$\checkmark\checkmark\checkmark\checkmark\checkmark$	$\checkmark \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark$	\checkmark \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark	100 100
1 Rep. Davina DUERR (D)	$\checkmark \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark$	$\checkmark \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark$	$\checkmark \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark$	$\checkmark \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark$	100 98
9 Rep. Mary DYE (R)	x x x x	x x x x	✓ x x ✓ x	x	22 14
47 Rep. Debra ENTENMAN (D)	$\checkmark\checkmark\checkmark\checkmark\checkmark$		$\checkmark \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark$	\checkmark \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark	94 99
39 Rep. Carolyn ESLICK (R)	× × × ×	E 🗴 🗸 🗶	× × × × ×	$\checkmark \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark \times \times$	35 25
46 Rep. Darya FARIVAR (D) 27 Rep. Jake FEY (D)	$\begin{array}{c c} \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark \\ \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark \end{array}$		$\begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	$\begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	100 100 100 100
27 Rep. Jake FEY (D) 34 Rep. Joe FITZGIBBON (D)		$\begin{array}{c c} \mathbf{v} & \mathbf{v} & \mathbf{v} \\ \mathbf{v} & \mathbf{v} & \mathbf{v} \\ \mathbf{v} & \mathbf{v} & \mathbf{v} & \mathbf{v} \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c c} \mathbf{v} & \mathbf{v} & \mathbf{v} & \mathbf{v} \\ \hline \mathbf{v} & \mathbf{v} & \mathbf{v} & \mathbf{v} & \mathbf{v} \\ \hline \mathbf{v} & \mathbf{v} & \mathbf{v} & \mathbf{v} & \mathbf{v} \\ \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c c} \mathbf{v} & \mathbf{v} & \mathbf{v} & \mathbf{v} \\ \hline \checkmark & \checkmark & \checkmark & \checkmark & \checkmark & \checkmark \\ \hline \end{array}$	100 100
38 Rep. Mary FOSSE (D)	\checkmark \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark	$\checkmark \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark$	$\checkmark \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark$	\checkmark \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark	100 100
12 Rep. Keith GOEHNER (R)	×	✓ × ✓ ×	✓ x x ✓ x	√ √ x x x	44 31
45 Rep. Roger GOODMAN (D)	$\checkmark \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark$	$\checkmark \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark$	$\checkmark \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark$	$\checkmark \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark$	100 98
6 Rep. Jenny GRAHAM (R)	x x x 🗸	$\checkmark \times \checkmark \times$	x x x x x	x	28 33
33 Rep. Mia GREGERSON (D)	$\checkmark\checkmark\checkmark\checkmark\checkmark$	$\checkmark\checkmark\checkmark\checkmark\checkmark$	$\checkmark\checkmark\checkmark\checkmark\checkmark\checkmark$	$\checkmark\checkmark\checkmark\checkmark\checkmark\checkmark$	100 99
35 Rep. Dan GRIFFEY (R)	×	✓ × ✓ ×	✓ × × ✓ ×	x	39 32
11 Rep. David HACKNEY (D)	$\checkmark \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark$		$\checkmark \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark$	$\checkmark \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark$	100 100
23 Rep. Drew HANSEN (D)			$\checkmark \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark$	$\checkmark \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark$	100 99
17 Rep. Paul HARRIS (R) 26 Rep. Spencer HUTCHINS (R)	$\begin{array}{c c} \checkmark & \checkmark & \checkmark & \checkmark \\ \hline \mathbf{x} & \checkmark & \mathbf{x} & \mathbf{x} \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c c} \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark \times \\ \checkmark \times \checkmark \times \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c c} \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark \times \checkmark \times \\ \checkmark \times \times \checkmark \times \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	67 31 33 33
25 Rep. Cyndy JACOBSEN (R)		$\begin{array}{c} \mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{v} \times \\ \mathbf{x} \times \mathbf{v} \times \end{array}$	$\checkmark \times \times \checkmark \times$	$\checkmark \checkmark \times \times \times$	28 25
27 Rep. Laurie JINKINS (D)	\checkmark \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark	$\checkmark \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark$	$\checkmark \times \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark$	$\checkmark \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark$	94 95
16 Rep. Mark KLICKER (R)	x x x x	x x x x	✓ x x ✓ x	x	22 26
1 Rep. Shelley KLOBA (D)	\checkmark \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark	$\checkmark\checkmark\checkmark\checkmark\checkmark$	$\checkmark \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark$	$\checkmark \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark$	100 100
7 Rep. Joel KRETZ (R)	× × × ✓	✓ × ✓ ×	✓ x x ✓ x	✓ ✓ <u>×</u> × ×	39 18
28 Rep. Mari LEAVITT (D)	√ √ x √	$\checkmark \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark$	✓ × ✓ ✓ ×	$\checkmark \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark$	83 84
40 Rep. Debra LEKANOFF (D)	\checkmark \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark		$\checkmark \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark$	$\checkmark \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark$	100 100

A.	HOUS SCORECARD	ESHB 1050—Apprenticeship utilization	SHB 1068—Injured worker medical exams	ESHB 1106—Unemployment/voluntary	E2SHB 1110—Middle housing	2SHB 1122—WMS bargaining	25HB 1151—Fertility services coverage	ESHB 1187—Employee-union privilege	SHB 1200—Employee information/unions	E25HB 1216—Clean energy siting	ESHB 1533—PRA/employee information	25HB 1762—Warehouse employees	ESSB 5111—Sick leave/construction	ESSB 5217—Musculoskeletal injuries/L&I	SSB 5238—Academic employee bargaining	2558 5269—Manufacturing	255B 5454—PT5D/industrial insurance	ESB 5650—K-12 inflationary increases	SB 5768—DOC/abortion medications	2023 WSLC Voting Record	Lifetime WSLC Voting Record
39	Rep. Sam LOW (R)	\checkmark	\checkmark	×	×	\checkmark	×	\checkmark	×	\checkmark	×	×	\checkmark	×	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	×	×	50	50
43	Rep. Nicole MACRI (D)	✓	~	~	\checkmark	\checkmark	✓	V	\checkmark	\checkmark	✓	~	√	\checkmark	\checkmark	√	~	~	\checkmark	100	100
10	Rep. Jacquelin MAYCUMBER (R)	×	X	×	V	√	×	V	X	 ✓ 	X	×	V	×	V	V	×	×	x	39 24	28 24
18 19	Rep. Stephanie McCLINTOCK (R) Rep. Joel McENTIRE (R)	x x	××	x x	x x	×	⊐ ×	v v	x	X X	x x	x	v v	x x	×	×	x	××	x x	17	24
29	Rep. Sharlett MENA (D)	$\overline{\checkmark}$	$\overline{\checkmark}$	$\widehat{\checkmark}$	$\overline{\checkmark}$	$\overline{\checkmark}$	$\overline{\checkmark}$	· ✓	$\overline{\checkmark}$	$\overline{\checkmark}$	$\overline{\checkmark}$	$\widehat{\checkmark}$	· ✓	$\overline{\checkmark}$	\checkmark	$\overline{\checkmark}$	$\overline{\checkmark}$	$\widehat{\checkmark}$	$\overline{\checkmark}$	100	100
29	Rep. Melanie MORGAN (D)	E	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	√	√	\checkmark	\checkmark	√	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	E	100	100
14	Rep. Gina MOSBRUCKER (R)	x	×	×	×	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	×	×	x	×	\checkmark	×	\checkmark	\checkmark	×	×	×	33	28
20	Rep. Ed ORCUTT (R)	x	×	×	\checkmark	×	x	\checkmark	×	×	x	x	\checkmark	×	×	\checkmark	×	x	×	22	24
3	Rep. Timm ORMSBY (D)	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	100	100
21	Rep. Lillian ORTIZ-SELF (D)	\checkmark	Е	Е	E	\checkmark	\checkmark	Е	E	E	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	E	\checkmark	\checkmark	E	\checkmark	\checkmark	100	100
33	Rep. Tina ORWALL (D)	√	~	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	✓	✓	\checkmark	\checkmark	✓	~	✓	\checkmark	\checkmark	✓	✓	~	\checkmark	100	98
10	Rep. Dave PAUL (D)	V	 ✓ 	V	V	 ✓ 	V	✓	V	\checkmark	×	V	V	V	 ✓ 	✓	✓	V	V	94	94
21	Rep. Strom PETERSON (D)	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	100	100
46 40	Rep. Gerry POLLET (D) Rep. Alex RAMEL (D)	v	v	v	V	V	v	v	V	V	v	v	V	V	V	v	v	v	V	100 100	100 100
40	Rep. Bill RAMOS (D)	\checkmark	v	V V	\checkmark	\checkmark	V V	V V	\checkmark		V V	V V	v	\checkmark	\checkmark	v	v	V V	\checkmark	100	98
36	Rep. Julia REED (D)	· 、	~	· 、	$\overline{\mathbf{v}}$	\checkmark	· 、	· 、	$\overline{\mathbf{v}}$	\checkmark	· 、	~	· 、	$\overline{\mathbf{v}}$	\checkmark	· 、	· 、	~	\checkmark	100	100
30	Rep. Kristine REEVES (D)	E	E	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	√	√	\checkmark	\checkmark	v	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	E	E	\checkmark	\checkmark	E	100	100
3	Rep. Marcus RICCELLI (D)	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	100	99
31	Rep. Eric ROBERTSON (R)	x	x	×	\checkmark	\checkmark	x	\checkmark	×	×	\checkmark	x	\checkmark	×	\checkmark	\checkmark	x	\checkmark	x	44	40
16	Rep. Skyler RUDE (R)	×	×	×	×	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	×	\checkmark	×	×	\checkmark	×	\checkmark	\checkmark	×	\checkmark	×	44	40
42	Rep. Alicia RULE (D)	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	100	91
32	Rep. Cindy RYU (D)	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	~	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	100	100
15	Rep. Bryan SANDLIN (R)	×	×	×	V	 ✓ 	V	V	×	 ✓ 	×	×	V	×	×	V	×	×	×	39	39
37	Rep. Sharon Tomiko SANTOS (D)	√ •	V	V	V te	V	V	V	V 10	✓ ✓	×	V	✓ √	V 10	✓ •	V	V	V	√ •	94	97
9 4	Rep. Joe SCHMICK (R) Rep. Suzanne SCHMIDT (R)	x x	x x	x x	x x	× √	x x	✓ ✓	x	x x	x x	x x	✓ √	× ×	x x	• •	x x	x x	x x	17 22	14 22
41	Rep. Tana SENN (D)	$\widehat{\checkmark}$	$\overline{\checkmark}$	$\hat{\checkmark}$	$\overline{\checkmark}$	\checkmark	$\hat{\checkmark}$	\checkmark	$\widehat{\checkmark}$	$\overline{\checkmark}$	$\widehat{\checkmark}$	$\hat{\checkmark}$	\checkmark	$\overline{\checkmark}$	\checkmark	v	$\hat{\checkmark}$	$\widehat{\checkmark}$	$\hat{\checkmark}$	100	99
10	Rep. Clyde SHAVERS (D)	$\overline{\checkmark}$	$\overline{\checkmark}$	$\overline{\checkmark}$	$\overline{\checkmark}$	\checkmark	$\overline{\checkmark}$	$\overline{\checkmark}$	$\overline{\checkmark}$	$\overline{\checkmark}$	$\overline{\checkmark}$	$\overline{\checkmark}$	$\overline{\checkmark}$	×	\checkmark	$\overline{\checkmark}$	$\overline{\checkmark}$	$\overline{\checkmark}$	$\overline{\checkmark}$	94	94
23	Rep. Tarra SIMMONS (D)	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	100	100
48	Rep. Vandana SLATTER (D)	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	100	99
45	Rep. Larry SPRINGER (D)	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	×	\checkmark	\checkmark	×	\checkmark	\checkmark	89	82
47	Rep. Chris STEARNS (D)	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	100	100
12	Rep. Mike STEELE (R)	×	\checkmark	×	\checkmark	\checkmark	×	√	×	\checkmark	×	×	√	×	×	✓	×	Е	×	41	33
31	Rep. Drew STOKESBARY (R)	×	×	×	\checkmark	\checkmark	×	\checkmark	×	\checkmark	×	×	✓	×	×	\checkmark	×	×	×	33	26
49	Rep. Monica Jurado STONIER (D)	\checkmark	\checkmark	V	~	\checkmark	V	V	√	\checkmark	V	V	V	 ✓ 	\checkmark	V	V	\checkmark	\checkmark	100	98
37	Rep. Chipalo STREET (D)	\checkmark	\checkmark	V	\checkmark	\checkmark	V	V	\checkmark	V	V	V	V	√	V	V	V	V	\checkmark	100 100	100
30 41	Rep. Jamila TAYLOR (D) Rep. My-Linh THAI (D)	\checkmark	• •/	• •/	▼ √		• √	• √	\checkmark		• √	√ √	• √	\checkmark	V V	• •	√ ×	\checkmark	\checkmark	94	100 96
24	Rep. Steve THARINGER (D)	`	`	`	↓	\checkmark	`	`	`	\checkmark	`	`	`	\checkmark	v	$\overline{\checkmark}$	$\hat{\checkmark}$	`	\checkmark	100	95
42	Rep. Joe TIMMONS (D)	\checkmark	$\overline{\checkmark}$	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	$\overline{\checkmark}$	\checkmark	\checkmark	$\overline{\checkmark}$	\checkmark	×	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	$\overline{\checkmark}$	$\overline{\checkmark}$	94	94
6	Rep. Mike VOLZ (R)	×	×	×	\checkmark	\checkmark	E	\checkmark	×	×	x	×	\checkmark	x	×	\checkmark	×	×	×	29	31
48	Rep. Amy WALEN (D)	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	×	\checkmark	×	\checkmark	\checkmark	×	\checkmark	\checkmark	83	82
19	Rep. Jim WALSH (R)	×	×	×	x	×	×	\checkmark	×	×	×	×	\checkmark	×	×	×	×	×	x	11	27
17	Rep. Kevin WATERS (R)	×	\checkmark	×	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	×	\checkmark	x	×	\checkmark	×	\checkmark	\checkmark	×	\checkmark	×	56	56
2	Rep. J.T. WILCOX (R)	×	×	×	\checkmark	\checkmark	×	\checkmark	×	\checkmark	×	×	\checkmark	×	\checkmark	\checkmark	×	×	x	39	21
49	Rep. Sharon WYLIE (D)	E	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	~	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	E	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	E	100	97
13	Rep. Alex YBARRA (R)	×	×	×	✓	✓	×	\checkmark	×	×	×	×	✓	x	×	v	×	×	x	28	27



2023 WSLC Legislative Report

BILL SPONSORSHIPS

Lots of proposed legislation that would Slatter, Ormsby, Thai, Farivar, Simmons, wylie.

who by e e ssion. SB 5202/HB 1149 – Reducing homelessness in Washington state through capital expenditures for programs that address housing insecurity. SPONSORS: Sen. Yasmin Trudeau and Rep. Steve Tharinger

> CO-SPONSORS: Sens. Robinson, Conway, Hunt, Kuderer, Lovelett, Nguyen, Valdez, Wellman, C. Wilson. Reps. Reed, Berry, Bateman, Ramel, Taylor, Macri, Reeves, Thai, Wylie, Pollet, Ormsby.

SB 5417 – **The Employee Free Choice Act** protecting workers who decline to attend employers' coercive meetings about political or religious views, or other matters of personal conscience including unionization, from retaliation or termination.

SPONSOR: Sen. Karen Keiser

CO-SPONSORS: Conway, Hasegawa, Hunt, Saldaña, Stanford, Valdez, C. Wilson.

SB 5770 – Lifting the cap on annual property tax increases, which has decimated city and county budgets, from 1% to 3%. Before a 2001 Eyman initiative, the cap was 6%. SPONSOR: Rep. Jamie Pedersen

CO-SPONSORS: Van De Wege, Robinson, Dhingra, Nguyen, Wellman, Keiser, Valdez, Saldaña, Hunt, Salomon, Randall, Cleveland, C. Wilson, Stanford, Lovick, Nobles, Hasegawa, Trudeau, Liias.



HB 1214 – Denying transgender minors access to gender-affirming medical care.

SPONSOR: Rep. Jim Walsh CO-SPONSORS: None.

HB 1360 – **Eliminating licensing** standards for multiple professional occupations.

SPONSOR: Rep. Stephanie McClintock

CO-SPONSORS: Walen, Corry, Cheney, Waters, Barnard, Ybarra, Couture

SB 5594 – Legalizing fully autonomous (self-driving) vehicles on public roadways. SPONSOR: Sen. Matt Boehnke CO-SPONSOR: Nguyen, Liias, King.

HB 1072/SB 5360 – Allowing triple trailers on state highways. SPONSORS: Rep. Mark Clicker and Sen. Drew MacEwan CO-SPONSORS: Reps. Sandlin and Rude.



HB 1093 – Legalizing school vouchers in Washington state. SPONSOR: Rep. Jim Walsh CO-SPONSORS: McEntire, Jacobsen, Graham.

HB 1523/SB 5476 – Weakening the new agricultural overtime pay standard.

SPONSORS: Rep. Keith Goehner and Sen. Curtis King

CO-SPONSORS: Reps. Chapman, Dent, Klicker, Volz, Walsh, Schmidt, Ybarra, Couture, Barnard, Connors, Sandlin, Low, Chandler, Corry, Rude, Mosbrucker, Kretz, Steele, Rule, Christian, Jacobsen, McClintock, Eslick, and Graham. Sens. Mullet, Torres, Warnick.

HB 1773 – Undermining state apprenticeship standards by

prohibiting competitor objections to new programs.

SPONSOR: Rep. Suzanne Schmidt CO-SPONSORS: Eslick, Chandler, Klicker, Volz, Christian.

SB 5185 – Limiting access to reproductive care and **banning** certain abortion procedures. SPONSOR: Sen. Phil Fortunato CO-SPONSOR: Padden

have serious benefits or consequences for working families never get votes by the House or Senate. But you can tell who supports the good, bad and ugly bills by checking the list of sponsors. Here are some of those bills from the 2023 session.





HB 1024 – **Banning sub-minimum** wages for incarcerated people.

SPONSOR: Rep. Tarra Simmons CO-SPONSORS: Reed. Berry. Ryu.

Goodman, Bateman, Ramel, Peterson, Street, Doglio, Macri, Reeves, Wylie, Alvarado, Thai, Santos, Ormsby, Fosse.

HB 1067 – Establishing a prevailing wage for workers in high-hazard facilities.

SPONSOR: Rep. Dan Bronoske

CO-SPONSORS: Simmons, Berry, Bateman, Lekanoff, Doglio, Gregerson, Wylie, Ortiz-Self, Pollet, Davis, Riccelli, Ormsby, Fosse.

HB 1307 – Granting interest arbitration for medical residents

at the University of Washington.

SPONSOR: Rep. Mary Fosse

CO-SPONSORS: Berry, Ortiz-Self, Bergquist, Lekanoff, Taylor, Ramel, Macri, Doglio, Gregerson, Reed, Pollet, Ormsby, Santos.

HB 1628 – The **Affordable Housing Act** would increase the supply of affordable housing by modifying the state and local real estate excise tax (REET). The current ceiling is a 3% tax on properties more than \$3 million. This bill would create a new tier of 4% on properties of \$5 million or more to fund affordable housing across the state.

SPONSOR: Rep. Frank Chopp

CO-SPONSORS: Macri, Peterson, Alvarado, Taylor, Reed, Pollet, Lekanoff, Fitzgibbon, Berg, Riccelli, Davis, Street, Ramel, Duerr, Senn, Doglio, Cortes, Stonier, Gregerson, Mena, Berry, Fosse, Goodman, Bergquist,



BUILDING ON OUR SUCCESS

Contact your CLC to support pro-worker candidates

The Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO and the state's regional AFL-CIO Central Labor Councils strive to identify which candidates for public office are the best for working families. They interview the candidates, research their voting records, and then, the local unions that comprise these labor organizations vote on which candidates have earned labor's endorsement.

But importantly, labor's endorsement is about more than appearing on a list or getting campaign contributions. It means that a grassroots network of union volunteers will be hitting the streets, going door-to-door to make sure that their fellow union members know which candidates have earned their support. At the WSLC, these grassroots internal political efforts are called the "Labor Neighbor" program.

The 2023 election is primarily for county and city offices, which are the jurisdiction of Central Labor Councils. (The WSLC will only consider endorsements in special elections for the Legislature or statewide ballot measures.) So it's important to check with your local CLCs to find out not only which candidates they've endorsed, but how you can participate in the CLC's grassroots political efforts.

For information about your local CLC, including when and where they meet, and how to contact them, visit:

wslc.org/afl-cio-central-labor-councils





The Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO builds worker power in the Legislature and at the local government level not only by supporting the election of pro-worker candidates, but also by recruiting and training our own members and supporters to run for office.

On March 29-31, in partnership with its affiliated unions, the WSLC hosted its latest **Path to Power** political candidate training program in Olympia. This in-person training hosted by WSLC President April Sims and Secretary Treasurer Cherika Carter

provided about 30 union members and local community activists (pictured above) with the tools and tips necessary to run a successful political campaign.

Path to Power training — facilitated by union political directors, campaign gurus, and elected leaders — covers fundraising, crafting an effective message, creating a campaign plan, building a campaign team, effective targeting, how to talk to voters, and more. Because many labor supporters may not have an opportunity to join a union at their workplace, the Path To Power program provides space for both union members and union supporters to learn to run successful campaigns.

Because this year's Path to Power training was held in Olympia, participants got to hear from some true labor champions in the Washington State Leg-

> islature. State Sen. Karen Keiser (D-Des Moines), a former WSLC staffer and OPEIU member, and Rep. Liz Berry (D-Seattle), who was a Path to Power participant herself, shared their campaign experiences and advice.

"The Washington State Labor Council and its affili-

ated unions continue to offer the Path to Power program because it works," Sims said. "Since 2017, we have identified and trained hundreds of union members and community partners to run for public office through this program. Many of them have been elected and are making a difference in their communities."

Thinking about running for public office? The WSLC will continue to offer Path to Power candidate trainings. Subscribe to The Stand at **www.TheStand. org** to stay informed about when the next training is scheduled.

PATH To POWER (D-3 to F sha

Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO

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