

Legislative Update January 7, 2006

Legislative Hotline 1(800) 562-6000

Call to leave a message for your elected officials

The legislative session begins on Monday, January 9, 2006. Very few bills have been dropped into the legislative hopper this as legislators are finalizing bills for filing and obtaining sponsors.

Priority Message of the Week (If you can only do one thing, do this!)

Call the legislative hotline and leave a message for the Senate Labor, Commerce, Research, & Development committee and ask them to support **SB 6185 Family and Medical Leave Act** and move this bill out of committee as soon as possible. We need to have it passed and in law BEFORE the federal rule changes are made. If your Senator is on this committee (ie, Kohl-Welles; Franklin, *Parlette; Brown; Deccio; Hewitt; Honeyford; Keiser; Prentice), call and leave a message to support SB 6185.

Modifying the Family and Medical Leave - SB 6185 & HB 2392 SUPPORT

This bill would re-institute a state law on family leave to insure our state can maintain a strong benefit, even if the federal administration follows through with their proposed rule changes that would make utilizing this unpaid leave benefit much more difficult. The bill also expands the number of employers covered by applying it to those who employ 25 or more (the current law covers only those with 50 or more employees). In addition, the bill extends the right to take unpaid family leave to domestic partners.

Status: SB 6185 will be heard in the Senate Labor, Commerce, Research, & Development Committee on Thursday January 12, at 8 AM

Action: Leave a message for the Senate Labor, Commerce, Research, & Development committee and ask them to support SB 6185 Family and Medical Leave Act and move this bill out of committee as soon as possible. We need to have it passed and in law BEFORE the federal rule changes are made.

If your Senator is on this committee (ie, Kohl-Welles; Franklin, *Parlette; Brown; Deccio; Hewitt; Honeyford; Keiser; Prentice), call and leave a message to support SB 6185.

Requiring Living Wages on Public Contracts – HB 1527 SUPPORT

This bill would require the state to only contract with companies that pay their employees a livable wage

Status: Scheduled for a Public Hearing in the House Commerce & Labor Committee on Wednesday, January 11 at

Action: Contact your member on the House Commerce and Labor Committee and ask them to support HB 1527

Providing Collective Bargaining for Family Child Care Providers – HB 2353 SUPPORT

Declares that the purpose of this act is to improve access to and the quality of family child care services. It also declares that in order to ensure that children receive the highest quality services from these providers, it is necessary to achieve and maintain a stable, well-trained work force.

To accomplish these goals, this bill would allow family child care providers and licensees to have a voice in the development of child care assistance and other programs through collective bargaining.

Status: This bill has not yet been assigned to a committee

Action:

Regulating Body Piercing – HB 2335

This bill directs the Department of Health to develop rules and declares that a person who practices body piercing or body art must comply with rules regarding standard universal health precautions for preventing the spread of disease.

Status: This bill has not yet been assigned to a committee

Action: