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# **DMV WORKERS FIGHT BACK OUTSOURCING BILL**

**UNION UPDATE**

When a bill threatened to outsource the work of Local 1000 DMV workers, our DMV HEAT team took action in their workplaces, lobbied legislators at the Capitol and made calls to legislators against the proposed law. Their quick action resulted in the bill being modified by the author and subsequently by the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

The bill (AB 301) sought to reduce the severe backlog in availability of commercial driver license skills test appointments at DMV by outsourcing the work to third parties.

Our DMV team's lobbying efforts were successful in removing the outsourcing language from the bill and subsequently removing a requirement that DMV administer the truck driving skills test within seven days.

The amended bill now establishes a task force charged with making recommendations to DMV on how to meet the goal of getting more truckers

on the road by reducing wait times for license tests over the next four years. Our team's work also resulted in language that adds a representative from our HEAT team to the task force to ensure the voices and interests of our DMV workforce are heard in an effort to improve efficiency in operations.

However, the bill still calls for a report and plan on reaching performance goals of reducing wait times to 14 days by July 1, 2019, and 7 days by July 1, 2021. We continue to oppose the bill as these goals set up an unfair expectation for the workers at DMV.

"This isn't just about lobbying against outsourcing; it's about finding a way to do our jobs better, to be of better service to all of California's drivers," said Tonya Bealey, a Motor Vehicle Representative at DMV in Long Beach.



### THE SHARED GOALS OF LABOR AND THE GAY RIGHTS MOVEMENT

With a shared goal of enabling workers to live and work with dignity, there's been a close linkage between the American labor movement and the Gay Rights movement that stretches back more than 80 years, and the struggle for equality has shown some dramatic results.

In the 1930s, Stephen Blair, an openly gay man, was elected as the vice president of the National Union of Marine Cooks and Stewards. The union was derided as "red, black and queer" for its liberal views and its embrace of minority rights. Blair's life partner, Frank McCormick, was a vice president for the California Congress of Industrial Organizations and was instrumental during the West Coast longshoremen's strike in 1934, which led to the unionization of every port on the west coast.

Harry Hay, a longshoreman from the Bay Area in California, founded the Mattachine Society in 1950, one of the first Gay Rights groups in the nation. Hay used the knowledge and skills he gained as a union organizer to put the group on the map, and the first five members of the group were union members.

In the 1970s, a partnership emerged in San Francisco between the Teamsters and gay activists. Coors Beer had been administering lie detector tests to prospective employees. Included among the questions was whether the applicant was gay. A boycott of Coors

was organized locally, spread nationally and reduced Coors' market share from 40 to 14 percent. The success of the campaign cemented a relationship between labor and gay activists and helped elect Harvey Milk as a San Francisco Supervisor.

Labor and the LGBTQI community repeated this success in 1978 when they worked together to defeat the Briggs Initiative in California, Proposition 6, which sought to ban gay people from teaching in public schools.

In 1993, one thousand members of SEIU met at Local 250's union hall in Oakland and founded its Western Conference Lavender Caucus. A few years later in 1997, Pride at Work, an organization dedicated to defending and promoting the rights of gay workers, formally affiliated with the AFL-CIO.

Our own Lavender Committee reviews the state's policies, programs and laws that directly impact the Local 1000 LGBTQI family and the communities they live in.

"We support all beliefs and all backgrounds and work to show the world we will not be divided by our differences," said Maria Patterson, our Lavender Committee Chair, who works as a custodian at Caltrans, Stockton.

#### Resource Center

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#### Website

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