

EVERYONE DESERVES TO BE SAFE AT WORK

OUR UNION HAS BEEN BUSY IN OLYMPIA this session. Brave members from janitorial and security have attended hearings in the House and Senate, and even given public testimony on why workers in our industries need protection from sexual assault and harassment—and why we need it now.

As of the publication of this newsletter, the bill to protect janitors and security officers has been approved in the Senate by a unanimous, bipartisan vote, and is headed for another hearing in the House.

IF THIS BILL BECOMES LAW, IT MEANS:

- Every worker, foreman, and supervisor in janitorial and security will be required to undergo sexual harassment prevention training
- A list of resources will be made available for anyone who experiences these abuses in the workplace



"I'm a single mother of seven children. Last year, we got a new foreman at work, and he started sexually harassing me. It went on for eight months. He would try to pull me into the conference room and freight elevator where there were no cameras. He would even call me at home. I had headaches everyday. I couldn't sleep. My daughter told me, I had to fight back. But he was my foreman—I was scared for my job. —**Rahama Hassan**, SEIU6 Janitor



"I was treated unfairly by my company after I reported sexual harassment. But I told my union rep and we worked together to fight for justice. I think this bill will offer workers more protection. Because a lot of people don't know where the line is, and it can be blurry.

I want to tell my union sisters, it's important to speak up when something happens. If you keep quiet, it's bad for your mental health, and it will enable bad guys to keep abusing their power. And don't underestimate the trauma that these situations can cause. You must speak up, and reach out for help when you need it."

—**Ambar Arellano**, SEIU6 Janitor

How Can I Support This Bill?

- Go to: <http://bit.ly/WAdistrict>
- Find your Representatives
- Call or email them & tell them to support the sexual harassment protection bill (ESSB 5258)



"During my time as a security officer, I worked to protect others, but I didn't feel safe myself. I was repeatedly touched by my male superior without my consent. My appearance was constantly commented on. After I reported this to the company, I never saw any harassers held accountable, and that must change. I suffered in silence, every day. And I now know I am not alone. This happens to people of all genders whether they are housekeepers, janitors, or security officers. People like us, who work long hours alone. No one should be pushed into the shadows and harassed and dehumanized."

—**Corin Dugas-Goodman**, former SEIU6 security officer

SIS OFFICERS NEED A CHANGE OF COMMAND

OUR UNION MEMBERS ARE WELL AWARE of the issues facing security officers at Amazon. We've heard about it for years: religious discrimination, little or no pay raises, lack of respect, inappropriate sexual behavior from supervisors, you name it. But as many times as brave SIS officers have come forward, SIS seems to stay the same.

"We've raised our voices so many times, but SIS has not changed its toxic work environment. It's a culture of fear, from the top down. That's why we say the officers who protect Amazon need a change of command." —**Essag Hassan**, SEIU6 organizer & former SIS officer

SEIU6 JANITORS JOIN THE FIGHT

As a union, we can support SIS officers who are speaking up now, and help them form a union to fight for fairness and respect on the Amazon campus. Our union janitors at Amazon are already connecting with SIS officers to spread the word on how they can come together to create change.



"A lot of the SIS officers view janitors as adversaries, so we need to show them that we are on the same side. By them coming into the union, it will cut through that division and show that we actually can be unified." —**Mark Guthrie**, SEIU6 janitor

WE'RE ON FACEBOOK @SEIU6

Check our page for news, meeting times, and updates. Join our industry groups to connect w coworkers.

WOMXN'S COMMITTEE MEETING

Saturday, March 16, 1pm - 2pm

Saturday, April 20, 1pm-2pm

CONNECT WITH YOUR UNION SISTERS!



**Rally for Security Officers
@ Amazon!**

**FRIDAY, MARCH 29
12:30PM**

**Cricket Building
440 Terry Ave**

**or meet @SEIU6 @11:30am &
carpool**

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

**SATURDAY, APRIL 13
12:30PM**

MEET YOUR UNION SISTERS & BROTHERS
MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD
CATCH UP ON UNION NEWS

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MARCH/APRIL 2019

Word from Our Union



The bill to protect janitors and security officers from sexual harassment advances in Olympia!

Read more inside!

This is your union! If you have any questions or comments, please e-mail Fred Prockiw at fprockiw@seiu6.org



News at 6

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Word from Our Union

OUR UNION SISTERS ARE LEADING THE WAY

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT, SERGIO SALINAS

March is Women's History Month, and our union sisters are making history. In Olympia, our members spoke out on behalf of a new bill that aims to protect both janitors and security officers from sexual harassment. The bill was approved in the Senate with a unanimous, bipartisan vote of 47 to 0.

There are still some steps before this bill becomes law, but let me be clear—the strides we are making in Olympia are huge. Over 1,500 bills were introduced at the start of this legislative session, and ours is one of a handful that's made it this far. Our members donating to the Worker Power Fund, voting, and encouraging others to vote for the right politicians is how we build our political power. This is the proof.

I also want to applaud the leadership of my sister **Zenia Javalera**, our Secretary-Treasurer, whose deep experience as a janitorial organizer and working mom make her a strong advocate for our union sisters. I echo her words:



"The fight against sexual harassment and the #MeToo movement didn't begin in Hollywood. Janitors were some of the first workers to speak out, and we're here in Olympia to raise the standards for everybody."

To my union sisters, I celebrate you for raising your voices and showing us the way forward. To my brothers, please join me in listening to their stories.

—President Sergio Salinas

AIRPORT WORKERS TESTIFY AT PORT COMMISSION MEETING

On Tuesday, February 26, SEIU6 airport workers packed the port commission meeting at Sea-Tac to make the case for **quality healthcare for airport workers now**.

Bizuayehu Haile, a passenger services worker with Prospect, made a clear and undeniable point in his comment: millions of passengers visit Sea-Tac every year, and thousands of airport workers serve them. If either group is unhealthy, it puts everyone at risk.



"The majority of airport employees have direct, first-hand interactions with all passengers – from serving them food to assisting the needy. Our interactions cover all instances, no

matter the risk," said Bizu.

"It is hazardous if workers shy away from going to the doctor for fear of high cost healthcare services. And yet, that is the dilemma many workers are in. Many cannot afford to pay for necessary medicine. We believe a small cost to employers can solve this problem and improve conditions for workers and passengers alike."

If more airport workers come forward to share their stories, we can keep the pressure on and let the Port know that we need quality healthcare now—and we can't wait. **Do you have a story to tell?** Call Elsa at (206) 619-9105.