



April 4, 2019

Re: SB 5313 Concerning School Levies

Dear Senators,

Tuesday night – or rather, very early Wednesday morning – and without prior notice, the Ways & Means committee took up SB 5313 “Concerning School Levies”, amended it with anti-union, anti-teacher amendments, and passed it out of committee. Presumably this was done as a matter of securing sufficient votes to advance the budget.

The amendments to 5313 functionally eliminate substantive collective bargaining rights for teachers, and cuts their pay. This is unacceptable to Washington’s working families, and it should be unacceptable to you as well. **You should vote NO on 5313 if it is brought to the floor, unless it is stripped of these amendments.**

Collective Bargaining rights are fundamental to our movement, and to our communities. They ensure fair, community standard wages, and underpin the middle-class. By removing these rights, 5313 will erode teachers’ ability to secure fair wages over time.

Further, doing this during a period of teacher shortages is insane. This will only exacerbate our school districts’ inability to recruit new teachers, and to convince young people to pursue the profession. That will undermine our entire public education system during a period of time when you have been working so hard to bolster it.

A yes vote on 5313, with its current language, is simply a vote against collective bargaining, against teachers, and against public schools. Nothing currently on the table is worth this trade.

Sincerely,

Association of Western Pulp and Paper Workers

Bricklayers and Allied Crafts, Local 2

Certified Electrical Workers of Washington/IBEW

Economic Opportunity Institute

FUSE Washington

International Association of Machinists, 751

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 77

International Union of Painters and Allied Trades, District Council 5

Laborers International Union of North America, Local 252

North-West Washington Central Labor Council

Professional and Technical Employees, Local 17

Puget Sound Advocates for Retirement Action

SEIU, Local 6

SEIU, Local 775

SEIU, Local 925

SEIU, Local 1199

SPEEA/IFPTE 2001

Teamsters, Joint Council 28

Teamsters, Local 117

UA Plumbers & Steamfitters, Local 598

Unemployment Law Project

United Food and Commercial Workers, Local 21

Washington Education Association

Washington Public Employees Association, UFCW 365

Washington Federation of State Employees/AFSCME Council 28

Washington State Association for Justice

Washington State Budget and Policy Center

Washington State Building and Construction Trades Council

Washington State Council of City and County Employees/AFSCME Council 2

Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO

Washington State Nurses Association

Working Washington/Fair Work Center