



Washington State BLET Members: Voice Support for ESSB-5065

The BLET Washington State Legislative Board, in conjunction with the SMART-TD Washington Legislative Board, is currently lobbying the Washington State Legislature in support of ESSB-5065, the Safe Leave Act for Washington State Railroad Workers. This legislation, if passed, will protect all rail employees who work in safety-sensitive positions from carrier-imposed discipline for unpaid time off duty for illness or injuries to ourselves and our family members. Additionally, it provides protection for up to a week of unpaid time for bereavement, gives rail workers the same reduced FMLA qualification standards granted to airline workers and prohibits carriers from accelerating the depletion of employee FMLA time banks by limiting deductions of more than one day for each day FMLA is requested.

Currently, ESSB-5065 is being considered in the House Rules Committee and needs to go to the House Floor for a vote. To voice support for this legislation by email without having to speak directly to both of your State Representatives' offices, click on the following link and follow the directions given:

<https://app.leg.wa.gov/pbc/bill/5065>

If you wish to contact each of your State Representatives' offices via phone, use the Legislative Hotline at 1-800-562-6000. This call only takes a few minutes to make and will certainly have a far reaching impact in determining how he or she will vote on this bill. It is likely you will not speak with either of your Representatives directly, so please be respectful to their staff member, just as you would if speaking with your Representative personally. Encourage supportive family members and friends to also get involved in the efforts towards the passage of this crucial legislation! If you are unsure how to express your support for this legislation when contacting them, here is sample language for you to use as follows:

“My name is (Name) and I live at (Address). As a constituent of the Representative, I am calling to ask that (he or she) please vote in favor of ESSB-5065, the Safe Leave Act for Washington State Railroad Workers. Thank you.”

Please contact BLET Washington State Legislative Board Chairman Shahrain C. Allen at (253) 961-1021 or shahrain@gmail.com with any questions.

A message from the BLET Mobilization Team