

Reclaiming Worker Power Energizing Our Movement

WASHINGTON STATE LABOR COUNCIL, AFL-CIO

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE PROTECT OUR LETTER CARRIERS ACT RESOLUTION #2024.16

WHEREAS, the letter carriers of the United States Postal Service have long been the target of criminals seeking to steal mail, keys or other equipment, and this violent targeting has been increasing in recent years; and

WHEREAS, since 2020, there have been more than 2,000 crimes committed against letter carriers on the job. Many of these attacks involve a gun or another weapon. Letter carrier robberies climbed to 643 last year, an increase of nearly 30 percent, and the number of robberies resulting in injuries doubled, according to the United States Postal Inspection Service (USPIS); and

WHEREAS, bipartisan legislation has been introduced in both houses of congress known as the Protect Our Letter Carriers Act (H.R. 7629/S. 4356), which together would provide \$7 billion in funding for the Postal Service to secure its infrastructure, including the installation of high-security collection boxes and the replacement of items carried by letter carriers with more secure electronic versions, because when key infrastructure is devalued and more secure, letter carriers will be safer on their routes; and

WHEREAS, this legislation would increase prosecution rates for these crimes by requiring the Attorney General to appoint an assistant U.S. attorney in each judicial district to prioritize any case involving an assault or crime against a letter carrier. Their principal responsibility in the district would be to coordinate and supervise the investigation and prosecution of these crimes, and would also strengthen sentencing guidelines for these crimes, ensuring that they are treated in the same manner as assaults on federal law enforcement officers, and is a needed step in the right direction; now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, the Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO (WSLC) supports, endorses, and will advocate for the passage and enactment of both H.R. 7629 and S. 4356 by asking all 10 members of our state's U.S. House delegation and both U.S. senators to cosponsor and vote for them; and be it finally

RESOLVED, the WSLC ask its affiliates to do likewise and to encourage their national/international unions to do the same.