

Reclaiming **Worker Power**
Energizing **Our Movement**
WASHINGTON STATE LABOR COUNCIL, AFL-CIO

**RESOLUTION TO EXTEND PRESUMPTIVE COVERAGE FOR PTSD TO CORRECTIONAL
WORKERS**
RESOLUTION #2024.31

WHEREAS, correctional workers do physically and mentally demanding work; and

WHEREAS, correctional workers experience environmental stress from working in confined spaces without natural light, intense security requirements, poor ergonomics, poor climate control, and volatile noise. These factors lead to serious health issues such as fatigue, hypervigilance, substance use disorder, burnout, emotional exhaustion, and hypertension; and

WHEREAS, as a result of chronic understaffing across WA DOC there has been an increase in inmate violence, staff safety concerns, increased sick leave and increased overtime. Workers have reported working up to 16 days in a row; and

WHEREAS, correctional workers experience traumatic stressors and threats to their safety such as inmate-on-inmate violence, inmate suicide, inmate-on-staff violence, infectious diseases, or serious safety threats towards from inmates towards staff and their families to being attacked by inmates with handmade weapons or contraband; and

WHEREAS, corrections workers experience PTSD at higher rates than combat veterans; now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Washington State Labor Council shall assist Teamsters Local 117's legislative efforts to extend PTSD Presumptive Coverage for DOC Correctional Workers in the upcoming 2025 Legislative Session.