

Letter Carriers union opposes 'Do Not Mail' bill proposed in Washington State

OLYMPIA — The National Association of Letter Carriers told key Washington state legislators Feb. 8 that passage of proposed bills to create a "Do Not Mail" registry would be detrimental to the U.S. Postal Service, its workforce, and the general public.

NALC President William H. Young, whose union represents 221,000 letter carriers in the nation, expressed his "fierce opposition" to the legislation in letters to Washington House Commerce and Labor Chairman Steve Conway and Senate Consumer Protection and Housing Chairman Brian Weinstein as Conway's committee held a hearing Feb. 8 on the legislative proposal.

About 5,500 letter carriers reside in

Washington state.

Young said the proposal "could jeopardize the very future of America's postal system," adding that while it may be well-intentioned, it is being erroneously promoted as similar to "Do Not Call" limits on telemarketers.

"Unlike the annoying phone calls that were routinely timed to coincide with the dinner hour, postal patrons are free to choose when and how to deal with the mail they receive," Young said.

Young said the third class mail earmarked in the bill constitutes more than 50 percent of all mail. "Elimination of a significant portion of advertising mail could be devastating," he said.

Young said letter carriers, as other citizens, have environmental concerns about the waste of natural resources, but added that most advertising mailing is printed on recycled paper and postal patrons can recycle that mail.

Kaiser gets okay to build new hospital facility

Kaiser Permanente has received approval from Oregon state regulators to build a \$285 million hospital on a 15-acre site in the Tanasbourne area of Washington County.

Kaiser has historically used union contractors and workers on its construction projects.

The 138-bed, 380,000-square-foot facility will house surgical suites, an intensive care unit, an emergency department, a labor and delivery unit and a pharmacy. The campus will also include a specialty care medical office and outpatient surgery center.

State law charges the Oregon Department of Human Services with reviewing proposals for new hospitals and nursing facilities to ensure health-care consumers don't pay for the cost of unnecessary facilities.

The hospital is projected to be complete in 2011.

Labor bowl for MDA scheduled Sunday, April 22

The 18th annual Labor Bowl Challenge to benefit the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) will be held Sunday, April 22, from 1 to 4 p.m. at Cascade Lanes, 2700 NE 82nd Ave., Portland.

Portland area labor unions have collected \$276,041 for the charity. Money raised from pledges and a silent auction helps provide wheelchairs and braces for youngsters, medical care, research and summer camps.

Pledge packets are available at the Northwest Oregon Labor Council or by calling Tor at MDA at 503-223-3177.



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