



"Have we been here before? Has it ever been easy to be in the labor movement?" asked AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Liz Shuler in her keynote address. "Now is the time to remember why we are in the labor movement in the first place. It's because we care about people. People we love. People we will never meet."



"At 3 in the morning, when they put a tax increase on Washington families and tried to pass a tax cut for business with no accountability or assurance of good jobs, I vetoed it, and that was the right thing to do," Gov. Jay Inslee told Washington State Labor Council convention delegates.



Message for WSLC Convention delegates: Resist. Persist. Repeat.

VANCOUVER — Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO, held its biennial convention at the Vancouver Hilton July 18-20 — at a time when the union movement faces serious threats at the national level, including the specter of national "right-to-work" legislation to weaken unions. But the mood was inspired, even jubilant at times, as union delegates from across Washington state gathered to talk about efforts to resist that agenda.

National AFL-CIO secretary-treasurer Liz Shuler pointed to a list of successes in Washington state, including the recent pas-

sage of what she called "the most generous paid family leave law in the country" and last fall's labor-led Initiative 1433 that is raising the state minimum wage to \$13.50 and guaranteeing that all workers earn paid sick leave.

Another guest speaker, Washington Attorney General Bob Ferguson, got a hero's welcome for his successful lawsuit to block Trump's Muslim travel ban. He was presented the 2017 Power to the People award by the WSLC.

Delegates also set policy with the passage of 26 resolutions, including:

- Opposition to the entry of nonunion New Seasons Market into Washington
- Commitment to host a "Race & Labor" summit in 2018 to identify key stress points around race, class, and labor within the Washington labor movement and create a "best practices tool kit"
- Commitment by member unions to employ union members in all electronically-generated or recorded media projects for broadcast or internal use
- Support for efforts to form a new AFL-CIO constituency group, Council FIRE, for Native American union members
- Commitment to work with affiliated unions to plan rapid response to immigration raids, and share contract provisions that can help protect workers from raids.



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Thomas Mitchell
Regional Sales Director
Taft-Hartley Services

OneAmerica Retirement Services, LLC
a ONEAMERICA® company
15 Robbins Lane
Lakeville, MA 02347
Main: (508) 923-3452
Cell: (339) 309-9590
thomas.mitchell@OneAmerica.com