

process, but part of this is the hammerlock that the health care industry has on many state legislators – and the partial influence it has on some of the most pro-worker lawmakers.

AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE FIGHT CONTINUES...

House Speaker Karen Minnis (R – Gresham) blocked much of the affordable health care package. In her role as Speaker she used her power to block affordable health care (and pro-worker legislation). The threat of her opposition led to weaker bills coming through the Senate.

In 2006, we have to do a better job working with our legislative allies to reach consensus prior to the start of the 2007 session on the blueprint for affordable health care.

Representative Brad Witt steps in to help whistle blower

Tracy Loutzenhiser, DAS Steward and Office Specialist II, was issued a pre-dismissal letter for forwarding an internal email document to her union. The forwarded document included information that the State's legislative committee had been requesting from DAS on the Data Center Consolidation.

SEIU presented the information to Brad Witt (D: St. Helens), who was irritated that the information appeared to be available, but was not being presented in a timely fashion to the legislators. The story was picked up by TV news and made public. Representative Witt interrupted his legislative schedule to get a full briefing from Tracy on her discipline. He was able to put a hold on that budget.

A petition of support for Tracy was posted on the web and circulated throughout our union. Over 400 union sisters and brothers signed the petition in just three days! Tracy is now working at the Salem Motor Pool and likes her new environment very much.



“Standing together with other members of our union and our friends in the legislature gave me the strength to fight for my job and win.”

Tracy Loutzenhiser

DAS Office Specialist 2, Salem