

Labor

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cation this session, adding that they are crafting a proposal to establish a \$1 billion endowment, where half the money would come from the private sector and the other half from the state.

"It catches people by surprise, in an environment of 9 percent unemployment that we have significant openings in critical areas like engineering and other technical fields," Mullin added.

According to the National Academy of

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two special interests. Business clocked in a win when the Legislature halted an increase in the unemployment tax rates early in the session, a tax break worth \$300 million this year. Gov. Chris Gregoire wanted the changes, saying that it will help business around the state keep afloat as they emerge from the Great Recession.

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"The fundamental issue is that labor is focused on state benefits for their members," Mullin said. "We're interested in expanding employment."

About 1,000 mental health care workers will walk off the job on Thursday, said Jonathan Rosenblum, spokesman for the Service Employees International Union 1199 NW, the union that covers them.

"This isn't a traditional strike against an employer. This is a strike against the state because the state funds the agencies where they work," Rosenblum said. "Our issue, our problem is with the

Legislature."

That strike is one of the several demonstrations planned next week to underscore labor's demands to close tax breaks for certain industries, an agenda that was put rolled out in December but hasn't gotten much traction since then. Gregoire doesn't support ending tax breaks for big companies such as Boeing, citing job creation.

But after seeing the revenue forecast dip another \$780 million in the next two years, labor leaders say they will try again.

"We expect more than a tepid response,"

Social Insurance, Washington is ranked behind West Virginia in the highest benefits paid for injured workers. The Roundtable also says the Washington has one of the highest unemployment insurance taxes.

They want the state out of the top-10 in combined local-state taxes on businesses, unemployment insurance tax rates, and workers compensation benefits — the last two are areas where business has fought labor this year.

Unemployment taxes and workers compensation are a permanent battle for these

Bills

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Solidarity



SUSAN FRIED PHOTO

Despite the rain several hundred people gathered Monday, April 4, at MLK Jr. Park on the 43rd Anniversary of the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. to "Stand Up for Working Families." The rally in Seattle was one of hundreds of events held through out the country to show solidarity with workers.

Johnson said.

Any time the subject of tax loopholes is brought up, though, Republican leaders are quick to say that tax breaks go both ways, sending out earlier this week a list that included child care in churches, legal services for low-income people, and government grants to arts organization among dozens of others.

Labor leaders said trail balloons have also been sent through the Legislature about a

referendum on Initiative 1053, the voter-approved initiative that requires a two-thirds vote in both chambers to raise taxes and fees.

"No one whether labor or business ought to feel comfortable where they are in the legislature. The best we can do is educate the members, make the best arguments we can," Johnson said.

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visions. SBA wants to ensure stakeholders understand how to utilize our programs and can give input on SBJA implementation, guaranteeing maximum benefit.

Attendees will have an opportunity to influence how the SBJA provisions are implemented. Senior SBA headquarters and field office officials and policy makers will be hosting the event. Along with roundtables for current and prospective SBA lenders, the following breakout sessions will be offered:

SBA's Office of Government Contracting and Business Development will take general comments on key contracting provisions, including: multiple-award contract set-asides; contract bundling accountability; consolidation of contracts requirements; subcontracting plan improvements, misrepresentations, and timeliness of payment; mentor-protégé programs for women-owned, service-disabled veteran-owned, and HUBZone businesses; presumption of loss to the federal government and willful misrepresentation of size and status by business owners; and, annual certification of size requirement

SBA's Office of Capital Access will discuss new efforts to simplify and streamline loan programs and requirements, while also

enhancing customer service in areas such as lending policy, processing, and oversight operations.

SBA's Office of Capital Access will discuss opportunities to accessing capital, and how SBA loan programs (including new Jobs Act tools) can help.

SBA's Office of Capital Access will dis-

Attendees have an opportunity to influence how the provisions are implemented.

cuss major new lending initiatives, including Advantage loans, 504 re-financing, the Dealer Floor Plan pilot, and more.

Investing in Counseling and Training Services to Support the Growth of Small Businesses

SBA's Office of Entrepreneurial Development will discuss the Jobs Act's support for your local Small Business Development Center and other resources to provide free counseling and training in areas such as exporting.

SBA's Office of International Trade will

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206-625-5011 to report the incident.

LISTENING TOUR – SMALL BUSINESS JOBS ACT

- U.S. SBA Headquarter Offices of Government Contracting and Business Development Ric Miller, Advisor to the Associate Administrator for Government Contracting and LeAnn Delaney, Deputy Director for Business Development

- Capital Access –John Hale, Deputy Associate Administrator for Capital Access,

- Entrepreneurial Development – Ellen Thrasher, Director off Entrepreneurship Development

- International Trade – Luz Hopewell, Acting Administration or International Trade

- Keynote Presentation: Joe Jordan, Associate Administrator for Government Contracting

- White House Representative: Bibi Hidalgo, Senior Policy Advisor, The White House Office of Public Engagement

- Wednesday, April 13, 2011, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Registration required, FREE

Visit www.sba.gov/jobsactour to learn more about the SBJA and program agenda for the Seattle event.