



March 23, 2018

WACOPS members,

Today, Governor Inslee signed into law two WACOPS-requested bills: SB 6188 (Brady list) and SSB 6214 (PTSD as a presumed occupational injury).

**SB 6188 – Brady List** (Prime Sponsor Senator Manka Dhingra D -- 45th Legislative District)

Collective Bargaining Rights Protected: No adverse employment action allowed due to Brady listing.

It's taken several years of consistent education and hard work, but by the Governor's signature WACOPS has successfully passed legislation to ensure that law enforcement officers throughout our state have equitable treatment as it relates to a local prosecutor's Brady list.



SB 6188 passed the Senate 41-6 and then the House 98-0. Today, Governor Inslee signed it into law thus protecting your collective bargaining rights. With the support of the Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys, WACOPS was able to overcome the continued opposition of WASPC finding strong support in sponsor Senator Dhingra. Though our House version (HB 2532) failed to make it through the process, we must recognize and thank Representative Sells for his unwavering support of this legislation over several sessions. The House of Representatives has now unanimously passed versions of this bill three separate times.

The legislation provides in part: "A disciplinary action or any other adverse personnel action may not be undertaken by a law enforcement agency against a peace officer solely because that officer's name has been placed on a list maintained by a prosecuting attorney's office of recurring witnesses ... "

We believe this will protect our State's peace officers from adverse employment actions taken outside of the proper process granted through their collective bargaining agreements. For more information please contact the WACOPS office.

**SSB 6214 – PTSD** (Prime Sponsor Senator Steve Conway D – 29th Legislative District)

Law Enforcement Celebrates Historic Win: Inslee signs law recognizing PTSD as a presumptive on the job injury.

WACOPS partnered with the Washington State Council of Firefighters (WSCFF) to pass legislation recognizing PTSD as a presumptive illness for first responders. Though the fire community has had conditions recognized as presumptive, the passage of SSB 6214 is the first such recognition for law enforcement. Passing from the Senate 47-0 and then from the House 91-7, this strongly bi-partisan legislation will help hundreds of first responders. Not without opposition, WACOPS and WSCFF successfully educated the Legislature about the importance of early detection and treatment of PTSD. Testimony by Sean Riley of Safe Call Now aided Legislators in understanding the cost of silence and the positive prognosis for those that seek help.



With passage of this bill, law enforcement officers have, for the first time, not only the Legislature’s recognition of the existence of PTSD, but that it is a presumed occupational injury.

The legislation provides in part: A prima facie rebuttable presumption exists that PTSD is an occupational disease for those firefighters, EMTs, and law enforcement officers. For the presumption to apply, the PTSD must develop after the individual has served at least 10 years. If the employer does not provide a psychological exam for individuals hired after the effective date, the presumption applies.

If you would like additional information on this legislation, please contact the WACOPS office.

In attendance for today’s bill signings were President Craig Bulkley, Secretary/Treasurer Darell Stidham, Board Member Chris Tracy, Lobbyist Bud Sizemore and Executive Director Teresa Taylor. We are proud to represent the rank and file peace officers of our state. Through your membership, we are able to advocate for you, protecting your collective bargaining rights and quality of life.

Thank you for your membership,

Teresa Taylor

Executive Director