

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT REPORT

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HEALTH CARE REFORM ... EMPLOYEE FREE CHOICE ACT ... HEALTH CARE REFORM ... EMPLOYEE FREE CHOICE ACT... HEALTH CARE REFORM... EMPLOYEE FREE CHOICE ACT... HEALTH CARE REFORM... EMPLOYEE FREE CHOICE ACT...

Sound familiar? I hope so. I have reported on this a lot for THE last year and the crunch time is here. I guess you could say it is time to act and I am STRONGLY URGING each and everyone who reads this report to commit themselves to becoming educated, commit to take action, and follow through. You can do many things. Google is a wonderful tool and if you Google health care reform and Employee Free Choice Act you will find plenty of information to assist in research.

You could just take my word for it that this is important to all of us and everyone else in the country but I do think that everyone needs to be educated with correct information. Depending where you go you will see both sides of the argument and in all honesty some can't be trusted so I would remind folks to consider the source.

I am so thankful that we currently have a President and a Congress that are working hard for working people and those who are less fortunate. I obviously understand not every decision or action will be cheered. In fact I have my own gripe regarding the Obama administration regarding Universal Health Care or the Single Payer Healthcare. My complaint is neither Congress nor the Administration is letting these groups speak at their meetings to advocate for that as an option under health care reform. In fact 13 people were arrested recently while trying to advocate single payer at a recent congressional hearing.

On May 30th thousands upon thousands showed up at rallies all across the country to advocate for a single payer system. In Seattle we had close to 5000 people on a beautiful Saturday afternoon to walk from Pratt Park in the Central District of Seattle to Westlake Center. All the people there wanted the same thing health care reform and an honest debate with all the options on the table. These folks came from unions, medical professionals, and many others but ultimately they were just folks like you and me saying let them speak.

When we got to Westlake on the other side of the street were the protesters there were maybe 200 of them and clearly by the signs they were holding I would say they don't get it and they don't understand. I am sure I am a bit biased in that opinion. But for argument sake one sign said "Free ain't Free". No one said it would be free. "Universal health care equals higher death rates". I would like to know how they came up with that? Statistics show countries with

universal care have lower death rates and less serious illness for that matter and cheaper than to the country than what we are paying. I will leave it at that for a moment.

This month, the month of June committees in D. C. are meeting, recommendations are being made, the government is going to propose some reform. I think it is important that we all make sure our voice is heard.

Employee Free Choice Act is also very important and will need everyone's support. I won't go into great detail here as I got a bit carried away with healthcare... Bottom line is back in the day when unions were getting bigger and stronger the middle class was born. The unions brought many good things that benefited union folks and non union folks alike. Over the years with bad trade policies and incentives to move work off shore it has impacted millions of jobs. It is clear today what that has caused. At the same time we have many folks who want to be respected at work, have some health insurance, earn a livable wage. They have not been able to get a union formed because of anti-union tactics and fear that largely has gone on unchallenged. The Employee Free Choice Act will level that playing field. It will give workers a chance to form a union if they want one and it will heavily punish companies for unfairly retaliating against those who do. Please keep an eye on this and encourage your legislators to vote for the Employee Free Choice Act.

In Local news... To be honest I have felt a bit overwhelmed... with the clean up of the CFS and the recent onslaught of terminations a lot of time in grievances etc has been going on. I even decided to come in on Memorial Day for a couple hours to get some things done without interruption. When I came in I found Craig Dameron here working as well. He came in and reorganized files that had been building up this year. It was one of the tasks I had put off but at the same time it was almost June and needed to be done and was weighing on my mind. When I got here that day it was done. I want to thank Craig for taking his time and doing it. It really helped me be able to focus on the grievances I had as well as the other things I had to work on. Thank you.

I also wanted to mention a meeting I attended with one of the VP's from HR who came to speak with the Local's in the area. I had reported a couple months back the concern of some balloon payments for Qwest and the possible consequences if they could not make it. Somewhere to the tune of 1.3 billion... He reported they have a plan and with their "projections" feel comfortable they will be able to care for that debt. I did highlight projections for a reason... But at least they have a plan and are working towards it. He also indicated the company has hit a plateau of sorts in regards to line loss. While we may go back and forth with customers and competitors they feel the loss of lines is pretty much at a balanced point. I guess only the future will tell that and of course that logic applies to their projections.