



## 25th Legislative District Democratic Focus



On Saturday March 4, Congressman Denny Heck held a rally in Tacoma in support of the Affordable Care Act.

Our April meeting will be on Monday April 3rd at 7:00 pm at the Puyallup Library. Our program will be Islam 101, The Impact of Islamophobia on American Muslims, and Why American Muslims Matter for Democrats. Our speaker will take questions following his presentation.

## Did You Vote For Unfair Pay and Unsafe Workplaces?

People's Action

March 28, 2017

[Dave Johnson](#)

Who could be against fair pay and safe workplaces? Give you one guess.

President Trump just [signed a bill](#), passed by the Republicans in the House and Senate, that repealed President Obama's [Fair Pay and Safe Workplaces](#) executive order.

“Fair pay and safe workplaces” says it all. The rule stated that our government should contract with companies that have “a satisfactory record of integrity and business ethics.”

It required companies to report if they had violations of workplace laws covering wage theft, discrimination and safety, when applying for new government contracts of [\\$500,000 to \\$1 million](#). The federal procurement officers would take that into consideration, and work with the companies to remedy the problems.

That is what President Trump and the Republicans repealed. This Trump/Republican government does not care if companies that have “a satisfactory record of integrity and business ethics.” In fact, repealing this rule signals to companies that it is OK to “save money” by stealing pay from employees, violating their civil rights and threatening their safety.

This rule was a big deal, because companies that get federal contracts employ [one in five](#) American workers.

This is the Republicans, not just Trump. [This is who they are.](#)

But, of course, the “working class” voters who helped elect Trump and the Republicans all voted for this, right? They all clearly understood that electing Republicans meant that their pay and civil rights and job-safety were going to be rolled back so that the giant corporations could pass ever-higher profits to their “investors.” Right?

Of course they did. And they understood that the things our government does to make our lives better would be rolled back so that investor class could get huge tax cuts. Right? Of course they did.

But wait, there's more.

The Occupational Health and Safety Administration's (OSHA) "recordkeeping rule" is also [under the gun](#). This rule requires employers with more than 10 workers to keep records of safety incidents for five years. The Republicans in the Senate [voted last week](#) to gut that rule, too.

UAW President Dennis Williams called it "a slap to the face of American workers" and urged Trump to veto it. Williams said if employers can legally dispose of incident records after six months, "it will be extremely difficult to identify and fix hazards and incident patterns that cause illnesses, severe injuries, or even deaths on the job."

"It will now cross the desk of President Donald Trump, who is expected to sign it."

But this is only right, because this is clearly what the country voted for.

Right?

[https://ourfuture.org/20170328/did-you-vote-for-unfair-pay-and-unsafe-workplaces?  
utm\\_source=progressive\\_breakfast&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=pbreak](https://ourfuture.org/20170328/did-you-vote-for-unfair-pay-and-unsafe-workplaces?utm_source=progressive_breakfast&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=pbreak)

## **Minutes of the 25th Legislative District Democratic Organization Member Meeting, March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Held at Puyallup Public Library**

Meeting called to order by Chairman Ed Herde at 7:05

Flag salute lead by Karl Mecklenburg

Roll was called - Officers present: Ed Herde, Chairman; Raechelle Baghirov, Vice Chair; Bill Havens, Treasurer; Bob Koreis, Assistant Treasurer; Cliff Allo, Parliamentarian & Webster; Joe Colombo, Membership Chair; Eric Herde, PCO Chair; Joan Cronk, Focus Editor; Gina Bua, State Committeewoman; Jeremy Kamel, State Committeeman; Karl Mecklenburg, PC Rep. Pos. 2

Attendance – 47

All attendees introduced themselves and said a little about themselves

Guest Speaker Vox Dombek gave a presentation on transgender issues and took questions from attendees.

Joe Colombo spoke about the Puyallup Indivisible group.

There was discussion about the previous Wednesday's screening of The Road to Nicklesville by the 25<sup>th</sup> LD Democrats and the NW Film Forum.

There was discussion about the February 18<sup>th</sup> Legislator Town Hall.

Good of the Order – Kirby Pollard informed everyone about the Pierce County Democrats Fish Fry on Saturday April 1<sup>st</sup> from 6:30 – 8:30 pm at the Longshoreman's Hall in Fife.

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:40pm

## Chair's Comment

Ed Herde

In this past year with all the attention on the presidential primary and general election campaigns and the insane amount of money that was spent in them I have heard several times at our presidential caucuses, at 25<sup>th</sup> LD meetings, at legislative candidate forums, in small conversations, and in emails to me, that Democrats are tired of all the money in politics. I have heard people say we need to get the money out of politics. The old adage "Follow the Money" is a more useful guiding principle in our electoral/governing system than in any other subset of our society. This is because the money that is used to bribe legislators and other office holders through the campaign financing system is money that affects all of our lives. When this money comes from corporate interests who have the goal of maximizing profits above all else it almost always has a negative impact on 99+ % of the society.

Many Democrats have told me they are tired of the focus always being the raising of money for the next campaign no matter if the campaign is 6 days or 6 years away. I hear Democrats say their email is inundated with requests for campaign contributions. Because of the lack of observation of our government and the lack of participation in our government and electoral process by most citizens in recent decades the big money interests have been able to buy politicians and get laws passed that allow tons more money to be spent in elections. Any candidate who wants to run to fight the big money sadly needs big money to do so. Until we can get a majority in Congress who have not been purchased by corporations our candidates will need lots of money **unless we can get large numbers of people out door belling for them and their issues.** With the majority of voters getting their news from compromised corporate media we need to inform voters. The only way to do this without big money is with large numbers of volunteers. So if you are sick of big money controlling your representatives and your life get out and help the candidates that you support. Your time is valuable to candidates at every level – fire board, school board, city council, state legislature, congressional, and others. You can be part of the solution to the big money problem.

To see yourself how big money controls some politicians go to the Washington State Public Disclosure Commission website and view records of contributions to candidates – <https://www.pdc.wa.gov/>

Here is a link directly to the page with Legislative representatives:

[http://web.pdc.wa.gov/MvcQuerySystem/Candidate/leg\\_candidates?year=2016](http://web.pdc.wa.gov/MvcQuerySystem/Candidate/leg_candidates?year=2016)

Move ahead until you get to the page with the 25<sup>th</sup> District then Click on "Details" next to the legislator's name to see where they get their money.

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## Myth of the Fiscal Conservative

by Amir Fleischmann, published on jacobinmag.com

Austerity measures don't actually save money. But they do disempower workers. Which is why governments pursue them in the first place.

The thinking behind "fiscal conservatism" and austerity measures holds that government programs are inefficient, so we should aim to curtail government spending, privatize government assets, and lower taxes. We are told that ending homelessness, providing universal early childcare, healthcare, or higher education are unrealistic policies that would require spending far beyond our means.

In reality, though, the arguments made by the fiscal conservatives — saving money, efficiency, less government spending — don't align with the policies they are trying to implement. Fiscal conservatism is a myth, because cutting government programs doesn't actually reduce government spending.

There is a well-known theory of economics related to us by **Terry Pratchett** in his book *Men at Arms*, through a character named Vimes. The theory is basically that being poor is more expensive than being rich.

Take boots, for example. [Vimes] earned thirty-eight dollars a month plus allowances. A really good pair of leather boots cost fifty dollars. But an affordable pair of boots, which were sort of OK for a season or two and then leaked like hell when the cardboard gave out, cost about ten dollars. Those were the kind of boots Vimes always bought, and wore until the soles were so thin that he could tell where he was ... on a foggy night by the feel of the cobbles. But the thing was that good boots lasted for years and years. A man who could afford fifty dollars had a pair of boots that'd still be keeping his feet dry in ten years' time, while the poor man who could only afford cheap boots would have spent a hundred dollars on boots in the same time and would still have wet feet.

Fiscal conservatism is trying to get us to buy the cheap boots — and doing so causes us to spend more money than if we had just bought the good boots in the first place. Many social programs that fiscal conservatives advocate cutting have been shown to actually save the government money in the long run.

Let's take providing affordable housing and adequate shelters in order to end homelessness as an example. In the rare moments such policies are even discussed, we are told that public affordable housing provision and shelters are too expensive to be feasible.

But **academic research** has shown that homelessness is actually very expensive, because homeless people tend to cost the government a great deal of money in healthcare and criminal justice system services. In fact, people experiencing homelessness tend to cost \$3,810 per person per year greater than the average citizen in terms of justice services and \$10,217 per person greater than the average citizen in terms of healthcare services. The cost of homelessness support programs range from a couple thousand dollars to just over \$14,000 per person annually.

Set aside any moral obligation we might have to help the less the homeless — failing to meaningfully address homelessness is the more costly policy. We simply cannot afford austerity.

The same logic applies to universal early childcare. While fiscal conservatives tell us that we cannot afford quality universal early childcare, the truth is that we can't afford not to have it. **Economic data** shows us that providing universal early childcare actually saves the government money. This is because without it, childcare becomes so expensive that many parents face the impossible choice between working during the day or taking care of their child. One parent (disproportionately mothers) will often need to stay home and take care of the child. If that person is a single parent, they may have to go on welfare.

By providing universal early childcare, the government allows more parents to enter the labor force, get off of welfare, and generate taxable income. While the childcare program in Quebec is far from perfect, it has become clear that for “every dollar [they] invest, they recoup \$1.05.”

There are a litany of similar cases: why does **every state** spend more money per inmate than they do per student? Programs that keep people out of prison by giving them the social support they need cost far less than prison, but fiscal conservatives are always telling us to live within our means. Spending on social programs also creates more economic growth than tax cuts for the wealthy, because lower-income people are more likely to spend their money (generating a ripple effect of growth), whereas wealthy people just put their money in the bank, taking it out of circulation in the economy.

Supporting social programs reduces government spending in the long run.

Nevertheless, fiscal conservatives and neoliberals continue to insist on implementing austerity policies that harm us all.

This isn't because they aren't aware of how social spending budget cuts shake out over the long term. They're less concerned with which policies are ideologically consistent or financially sound, and more concerned with preventing the kind of redistribution of wealth and power from the top to the bottom which increased social spending provides. If it costs a bit more over time to structure budgets this way, so be it: spending extra on pair after pair of cheap shoes is worth it if the shoes are so shoddy that the working class can't kick your ass with them.

Original URL: <https://www.jacobinmag.com/2017/03/fiscal-conservative-social-services-austerity-save-money/>

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**\*PCDCC Ex. Board =  
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Fridays at 12:00 to 1:00 PM on KLAY 1180AM!**

**And if for some reason or other you miss it then go to [equaltimeradio.net](http://equaltimeradio.net).**

**Tune in or be tuned out!**

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**It's 2017 and time to pay your membership dues**

To be a voting member of the 25<sup>th</sup> Legislative District Democrats you need to be up to date on your dues. To help your local Democrats spread our message you need to pay your dues. To fight for the 99% you need to pay your dues. To elect good candidates you need to pay your dues. Your dues could be the straw that breaks the camel's back.

The Annual Dues period runs from January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>. Use this form to pay by check, or go to <http://25dems.org/Anedot/Dues.php> to pay by credit card.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Dues: Evergreen (Includes Senior, Outside of district, Student) \$10 per member. Rainier \$25. Chair's Voice \$50. Senator's Club \$100 - Can be paid in installments. Mail this form and your dues check to: 25th LDD, P. O. Box 73594, Puyallup, WA 98374

*Please encourage friends to become a member of the 25<sup>th</sup> LD Democrats.*