

Chris Leyba

### President's Message

I have received more chatter about the FOPs past support of HB1202, which was portrayed as a bill that eliminated qualified immunity for cops. In fact, when I meet with individual deputies on the fence about FOP, it is the number one thing they tell me that keeps them from joining.

So let's talk about HB1202 and how the legislative process works. First of all, in its inception and original form, no law enforcement groups supported it. In fact, it wasn't until legislators worked with the FOP to make it stronger protection for us than similar bills in any other state that our state lodge even commented on it. See the press release here:

<https://www.wafop.com/news/washington-state-fop-news/statement-on-qualified-immunity-legislation-house-bill-1202/?id=85cd9f89-6d11-4cdc-a3e1-43276dde12ef&page=4>

Notice how there's no "support". There is only praise for legislators being willing to listen and work with police representatives to better a bad Bill. In fact, Washington FOP brought in Colorado FOP experts to help the bill sponsors on this legislation, as they had been living it for over a year and had unique insight into the possible consequences of 1202. No other law enforcement groups in Washington had that capability. Other state FOP lodges called ours and asked how we dialed back the original bill because the same language was being introduced in their state. New Mexico was the only state that passed it last year, and they did not reach out to us.

Last year, for example, was one of the lowest bill clearance rates in Washington State history. Many ideas die before they ever see the governor's desk. Bills are sent to committees before the full house or Senate sees them. If the chair of a committee refuses to even hold a hearing for a bill, it's dead. If the chair holds a hearing but the majority of the committee refuses to come back to a vote on the bill, it's dead. If the committees votes but in the negative, it's DEAD.

So, any organization that has bills they want to see become law must have good relationships with all members of the legislature but especially members of committees that matter to their causes just to get a chance for the bill to see the light of day.

Attached are the democrat majority members of the house public safety and Senate law and justice committees.

The chairs and vice chairs are:

**Dhingra and Trudeau in the Senate**

**Hansen and Simmons in the House**



Superior service and transparency, for all

WACOPS supported only one of these people in the primary. All of those opposition candidates running against these legislators were destroyed soundly in the recent primary election. What chance do you think a WACOPS supported bill has to see the light of day in the most important committees to law enforcement bills in Olympia? What influence do you think they have in blocking bad bills from being heard?

WACOPS has very little if any influence in Olympia. They cannot get the votes to pass a single piece of legislation that matters to cops. They are about as irrelevant as COMPAS was before it went out of business.

FOP doesn't claim to be perfect, but keep open relationships with both sides of the aisle for one big reason: they actually know the legislative process and how the majority party plays into that. They want to make our profession better than they found it and they don't publicly burn bridges with people who are firmly entrenched politicians.

Let me be clear: this is **not** an argument against your local representation on other issues such as labor. This is about how political advocacy occurs in Washington State and, hopefully, reminds you why your investment in the FOP is producing actual results to minimize damage to our profession.

As always, I encourage you to reach your own conclusions. I have provided the contact info for all of these legislators and believe that if you or perspective lodge members have doubts that you should reach out to them.

House Civil Rights & Judiciary Committee	
Hansen, Drew (D) Chair 370 John L. O'Brien Building (206) 333-2975	Thal, My-Linh (D) 424 John L. O'Brien Building (206) 333-4107
Simmons, Terra (D) Vice Chair 132F Legislative Building (564) 888-2476	Valdez, Javier (D) 306 John L. O'Brien Building (206) 965-8739
Walsh, Jim (R) Ranking Minority Member 428 John L. O'Brien Building (360) 485-0547	Waters, Amy (D) 336 John L. O'Brien Building (425) 883-3366
Gilley, Greg (R) Assistant Ranking Minority Member 404 John L. O'Brien Building (360) 939-1211	Ybarra, Alex (R) 469 John L. O'Brien Building (360) 786-7808
Graham, Jenny (R) Assistant Ranking Minority Member 435 John L. O'Brien Building (509) 960-9393	<b>Committee Staff</b> Edie Adams Counsel 203 John L. O'Brien Building (360) 786-7180
	Ylenna Baker Counsel 211 John L. O'Brien Building (360) 786-7301
	John Burzynski Counsel 207 John L. O'Brien Building (360) 786-7133
	Abbarno, Peter (R) 411 John L. O'Brien Building (360) 786-7896
	Davis, Lauren (D) 331 John L. O'Brien Building (206) 673-3501
	Entenman, Debra (D) 305 John L. O'Brien Building (360) 786-7918
	Goodman, Roger (D) 436B Legislative Building (425) 278-4047
	Kirby, Steve (D) 437B Legislative Building (360) 786-7996
	Klippert, Brad (R) 122A Legislative Building (360) 786-7882
	Oswall, Tina (D) 430 Legislative Building (253) 656-5265
	Peterson, Strom (D) 324 John L. O'Brien Building (564) 888-2336

Home Page  
Email  
**Senator Manka Dhingra (D)**  
Deputy Majority Leader  
45th Legislative District

Home Page  
Email  
**Senator Yasmin Trudeau (D)**  
27th Legislative District

Home Page  
Email  
**Senator Jim McCune (R)**  
2nd Legislative District

Home Page  
Email  
**Senator Mike Padden (R)**  
4th Legislative District

Home Page  
Email  
**Senator Jim Honeyford (R)**  
15th Legislative District

Home Page  
Email  
**Senator Patty Kuderer (D)**  
48th Legislative District

Home Page  
Email  
**Senator Jamie Pedersen (D)**  
Majority Floor Leader  
43rd Legislative District

Home Page  
Email  
**Senator Jesse Salomon (D)**  
32nd Legislative District

Home Page  
Email  
**Senator Keith Wagoner (R)**  
Republican Whip  
39th Legislative District

# RETIREE

## GAP Insurance without an arm and a leg

For those of you that plan to retire before you are 65, medical insurance can be a huge concern. National FOP has partnered with thinbluelinebenefits to offer a gap insurance program that allows you to custom design an affordable insurance plan that works for your specific needs.

There are plans offering copays as low as \$15, maximum out of pocket costs for whole families at \$6000/year, and 100% of preventative care costs covered.

Check it out today at [www.thinbluelinebenefits.com](http://www.thinbluelinebenefits.com)

The finest nationwide healthcare solutions for retired FOP Members under age 65, anywhere in the USA



Two great plans to choose from!



- Everyone qualifies, guarantee issue
- Spouse and family plans
- HUGE savings!
- Enroll anytime. Plans issue every month
- See our NEW Full Service PPO Plan on a major carrier network nationwide

Visit us today at [www.thinbluelinebenefits.com/health-care](http://www.thinbluelinebenefits.com/health-care)

(866) 921-2583 [info@thinbluelinebenefits.com](mailto:info@thinbluelinebenefits.com)



## Washington State FOP Procedure for Critical Incidents Spans the State

In light of recent events, your board wants to remind you that you are free to utilize all legal defense you have access to in order to represent yourself when you are involved in a critical incident.

That being said, we recognize that after such an incident, the last thing you want to think about is who is coming to represent you.

We have vetted Dan Thennell and his law group as our preferred local attorney. Dan has recently taken up OIS investigations against officers in Yakima and in Benton County, and has established a good procedure to ensure you are provided an individual attorney per officer involved in the incident.

VP Zielinski and I will be able to answer your questions and coordinate legal representation when you need it if you currently utilize the FOP Legal Defense Plan. The main advantage we see with this option remains the individualized representation for the individual officer, regardless of how many are involved.

As the Office of Independent Investigations continues to be developed and planned, various independent investigation teams operate across the state. Eventually, this process will be made uniform under one entity... whether that entity ends up under the Attorney General's office or the Executive Branch is still up for debate.

Regardless of where this process ends up, it is now more important than ever that you have legal representation for all civil and criminal coverage both on and off duty when you act under the color of law. Regardless of where you get it, make sure you are protecting your family, your freedom, and your future.

If you choose to utilize the FOP Legal Defense Plan, just now that your board is ready 24/7 to work with our state and national resources to make sure you focus on YOU first after a critical incident.

## PERC Rulings: *Ben Franklin Transit, Decision 13550 (PECB, 2022)*

Ben Franklin transit supervisors are represented by teamsters local 760. On an unrelated matter to this, they filed an unfair labor practice complaint in July 2021 against the organization.

Prior to this ULP, Ben Franklin Transit had purchased new Ford Rangers to replace the aging fleet of Taurus sedans used by their supervisors. The vehicles were actually purchased in advance in 2020. After the ULP, these vehicles were suddenly dropped from exclusive issuance to supervisors and issued at large to other employees.

Local 760 filed this ULP on the grounds that Ben Franklin Transit engaged in unlawful discrimination based on their members previously executing their rights against unfair labor designated by RCW 41.56.

Ultimately, the arbitrator in this case ruled that the agency engaged in discrimination and ordered the trucks to be allocated to supervisors per the original agreement.

This ruling serves as a good reminder to employers that retaliation for the filing of valid ULPs by bargaining units does have consequences and that PERC has authority to exercise its authority to override this type of activity when warranted.





Secretary

# MEMBERSHIP DUES

## Recruit, Recruit, Recruit

Thank you so much for those of you that have submitted your 2023 Membership dues. I must submit 2023 Per Capita to State & National soon. The behind-the-scenes stuff most don't know about.

We're still in our recruiting membership drive! Get 5 members to sign up (make sure they put your name down as Sponsor) and you get an Amazon Gift Card and placed in a drawing for a larger Amazon gift card drawn at the December meeting!!

\$100 for Active (KCSO or another police agency NOT represented by FOP)

\$75 for Retirees

Venmo: @KC-Lodge37

Mail: PO BOX 88882, Tukwila, 98138

Dept Mail: Bridgman, Sound Transit



### MEMBERSHIP

Total Active: 133 (+3)

Total Retirees: 28

### Welcome new members this week:

Jeff Cunningham (Pct 4); Stephano Eulls (Burien); Thomas Banning (Pct 4)