

## Legislative Update as of January 29, 2010

Lobbyists meet each Friday morning to review current and upcoming bills. In the early afternoon each Friday afternoon a conference call is held with staff and leaders around the state with updates and potential calls for support on specific items.

February 1, 2010 was the only scheduled WEA Lobby Day. Mike Lawson, Olga Addae and Glenn Bafia met with Seattle legislators in Olympia. Potentially, there will be rolling lobby days that will occur starting the week of February 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Two companion levy bills that would lift the levy lid and raise levy equalization are moving through the necessary committees of the House and Senate. Twenty-five House members sponsored the original bill and at least ten more indicated that they attempted to sponsor, but missed the deadline.

With the exception of the levy bills, not much discussion has taken place in Olympia so far regarding the need for revenue. Recently two revenue initiatives passed in Oregon that may help create an environment that will be responsive to potential revenue solutions instead of slashing public education. It is likely that ideas for revenue will be part of the discussion starting in early February.

On February 15, 2010, members of a coalition seeking revenue solutions will be gathering in Olympia at the Capitol at noon. You can get more information about this rally from your home computer at [www.oureconomicfuture.org](http://www.oureconomicfuture.org) or you can email Alan Sutliff at [asutliff@washingtonea.org](mailto:asutliff@washingtonea.org). If you let Alan know that you will be attending, he can let you know about a possible pre-rally gathering just for WEA members.

The Governor also introduced an Omnibus Bill that includes some elements intended to allow Washington to be eligible to apply for Race To The Top federal grants. For WEA analysis, from your home computer go to [www.washingtonea.org/dome](http://www.washingtonea.org/dome). This is an analysis of the Governor's original version of the bill and will now have to go through the legislative process.

Stay informed at [www.seattlewea.org](http://www.seattlewea.org), [www.ourvoicewashingtonea.org](http://www.ourvoicewashingtonea.org), [www.washingtonea.org/dome](http://www.washingtonea.org/dome) or follow @seattleea on Twitter. There is also a Facebook page for the Seattle Education Association.

Stay involved by sending emails from home or using the Legislative hotline at 1-800-562-6000.

Remember that advocating for specific bills is considered political and should only be done before or after school or on your duty-free lunch. District phones and computers should not be used for such communication but you may use your cell phone.

