

February 28, 2023

Your Voices Make a Difference, Steelworkers!

In December, District 8 Director Larry Ray invited USW members from across the district to the second annual Kentucky Lobby Day. Early this month over 100 Steelworkers gathered for two days to learn about our union's core issues and meet with Kentucky legislators. On lobby day, attendees first met with Kentucky Governor Andy Beshear, and watched as he signed a proclamation declaring February 9, 2023 Unionized Workers Day in Kentucky. After, Steelworkers spoke to legislators about the importance of expanding family care leave and ensuring all workers have access to earned sick time, as well as the USW's Veterans Bill initiative and the importance of Buy American legislation. Today, we are happy to report that your voices were heard!

What You Accomplished:

1. Five days after District 8 members gathered at the Kentucky Statehouse two new bills were introduced relating to our Veterans Bill Initiative. [Kentucky House Bill 253, \(usw.to/4g1\)](#) sponsored by Representatives McCool and Roarx, and [Kentucky House Bill 265, \(usw.to/4g2\)](#) sponsored by Representative McCool, were introduced on February 14, 2023. These bills both relate to broadening access to information on benefits and services available to veterans through the creation of a veterans benefits and services poster to be prominently displayed by every employer with over fifty full time employees. Currently both bills are in the House Committee on Committees and are awaiting assignment to the appropriate standing committee for consideration.
2. Less than two weeks later, on February 21, 2023, Representative Blanton introduced [Kentucky House Bill 451, \(usw.to/4g3\)](#) a bill requiring that state and local contracts contain a provision that any iron, steel, aluminum, manufactured goods used in all state and local projects be manufactured in the United States unless a waiver is granted. This bill is also in the House Committee on Committees awaiting assignment to the appropriate standing committee for consideration.
3. [Kentucky House Bill 15, \(usw.to/4g4\)](#) a bill relating to the expansion of unpaid family care leave, and [Kentucky House Bill 69, \(usw.to/4g5\)](#) a bill that would ensure earned sick leave, were both introduced on the first day of the legislative session January 3, 2023 and sent to the House Committee on Committees where they remain today. While our lobby day meetings may not have resulted in immediate action on these two bills, they were critical to ensuring that legislators know we support these bills and will be watching them closely.

Thank You!

To hear from District 8 members and Director Ray about why this work is so important, go to [usw.to/4fV](#) or click on the photo to watch the 2023 District 8 Kentucky Lobby Day video.

In the coming weeks, as the Kentucky legislative session ends, we will be tracking these bills. Keep an eye on your email for updates and ways you can make your voice heard!



Larry R. Ray, Director District 8

For questions about how you can get involved in Rapid Response, contact Chad Conley,
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