

This is a call to action. On this Martin Luther King, Jr. Day we're asking you to join in the continuation of his struggle for social justice. While many gather on this day to honor his accomplishments in the civil rights movement, we want to also recognize his dedication to ending the numerous intersecting oppressions that still exist in this country.

We will gather at 11 am at Darby's Cafe. They are closed but are kind enough to let us use their space.

We will march at noon and hold a speak out at Tivoli Fountain on the Capitol lawn. Small children and people with slower mobility will lead the march to ensure accessibility to everyone. Join us for this kid friendly, collaborative action.

**"True compassion is more than flinging a coin to a beggar. It comes to see that an edifice which produces beggars needs restructuring."
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**

Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns or if you would like to volunteer to help with this awesome event. We're also looking for folks who would be willing to bring a pot of something for a potluck lunch at the Capitol. Food can be dropped off at 10 am at the campus lawn.

POWER

Parents Organizing For Welfare and Economic Rights

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Find us on Facebook.

POWER is an organization of low-income parents and allies advocating for a strong social safety net while working toward a world where children and care giving are truly valued, and the devastation of poverty has been eradicated.

Below:

- 1. POWER has computers hardware to give away.**
 - 2. Link to Governor Inslee's state of the state speech.**
 - 3. Where's the money to fix the state budget? EOI Institute article**
 - 4. Get yourself a GRUB kitchen garden!**
 - 5. Join Moms Rising in asking Congress sick days for working families.**
 - 6. Volunteer for the Thurston County Homeless Census.**
 - 7. DSHS Mobile CSO coming to Oly.**
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1. We have retired our old lady computers at the POWER office and erased their hard drives. If anyone can use mid to late 90's computer hardware, they are free to you! A mac or 2 and some pcs. Please call POWER at 360-352-9716 or email monica@mamapower.org if you are interested.

2. Watch Governor Jay Inslee's vision for the future of Washington.

[http://action.jayinslee.com/p/dia/action3/common/public/?action_KEY=9874&utm_source=ema_2015-01-13_sos_main_bk\[\[email_blast_KEY\]\]&track=ema_2015-01-13_sos_main_bk\[\[email_blast_KEY\]\]&tag=ema_2015-01-13_sos_main_bk\[\[email_blast_KEY\]\]&utm_campaign=sos&utm_medium=ema](http://action.jayinslee.com/p/dia/action3/common/public/?action_KEY=9874&utm_source=ema_2015-01-13_sos_main_bk[[email_blast_KEY]]&track=ema_2015-01-13_sos_main_bk[[email_blast_KEY]]&tag=ema_2015-01-13_sos_main_bk[[email_blast_KEY]]&utm_campaign=sos&utm_medium=ema)

3. Follow the money and fix the state budget

January 14, 2015

John Burbank, Economic Opportunity Institute Executive Director

Now that the Legislature is back at work, they have to find the revenues for K-12 education, for higher education, for foster kids, for the mentally ill, for the state patrol, for home care workers and early childhood teachers and caregivers. They also need to confront a fundamental reality of current state financing: we just don't have the money to pay for high quality education and good and appropriate public goods and services. So our legislators could punt, ignoring the State Supreme Court's ruling in the McCleary case that they have already violated the paramount duty of government – the education of children. They could ignore the people's vote for Initiative 1351 to reduce K-12 class sizes and just kick the almost empty bucket down the road for another year.

Or the Legislature could fully fund both McCleary and Initiative 1351 first, and then figure out how to fund other public services and expenditures. Not all state expenditures make sense, especially what are classified as tax expenditures. These are big and little holes drilled into the budget to benefit one special (and usually well-heeled constituency) or another. Take dealers in precious metal, like gold. A former state senator was very interested in the precious metals retail industry and he arranged a tax exemption through the Legislature that has now been on the books for three decades. It funnels about \$23 million a year from public services, like higher education, to precious metal dealers. Microsoft has benefitted from a special tax giveaway for research and development. In 2011 alone, Microsoft received a \$145 million tax waiver.

Microsoft also gets away with not paying taxes on any of the profits it makes from investments in the stock market. When you count up all the mega-corporations that take advantage of this one tax break, the bill to our state runs to \$175 million a year. Oil companies get a special \$30 million a year tax break in our state. The only other state to give this tax break to Big Oil is Alabama.

If we simply stopped using public money to fund private interests, we could make a dent in the getting education funding up to the level we need to truly prepare all our kids for life in today's rapidly changing world. But ultimately, it is time to go to where the money is...

Where is that money? It is not in the pockets of middle class families. You can't find it in the pay day loans of minimum wage workers. So if the economy is doing well, where is that money? It is in the bank accounts of the very wealthy citizens of our state.

In Washington, the income of the top one percent grew by 45% between 2009 and 2012, more than all combined income growth in the state. How did they receive more than all income growth? This bonus came from the working families. The bottom 99% saw their average real income fall by 3.5%. It gets worse: from 2007 to 2012, income for the average household in the bottom 99% fell by \$8,500.

So show me the money! The average income for the top 1% of households in our state was \$1,272,313 in 2012 (estimated from IRS tax data.) These households, about 30,000 of them, saw their annual income increase by almost \$400,000 since 2009. You can bet it has gone up more in the past couple of years, so it is closer to \$1.5 million now.

What would happen if our state levied an income tax of 4% on these households? Instead of a \$400,000 increase in household income, the 1% would have realized a \$350,000 increase over the past four years. On the other hand, the revenue from the 4% income tax would equal about \$1.5 billion a year. What could that pay for? It would completely cover tuition for all community college students. We could reduce the tuition at four-year public universities to \$5,000, and still have \$400 million to fund foster care, home health care, and early childhood education.

We elect the legislature. But do they work for us, or are they more concerned about protecting the deep pockets of mega-corporations and the fabulously wealthy? We will find out!

4. Greetings from GRuB's Kitchen Garden Project!

We wanted to let you know our application process is open for the 2015 garden building season!

Each spring GRuB's Kitchen Garden Project (KGP) partners with individuals, families and organizations to build 60-80 backyard vegetable gardens for food-insecure households in Thurston and Mason Counties. In addition to helping build the garden beds, we

provide the support and resources needed to grow fresh, healthy, and culturally appropriate food.

You will find the 2015 Spring Garden Application on our website. The deadline for submitting an application is January 31st. We encourage you to share this application widely! Help us cultivate greater food security in our communities by reaching out to individuals and families in your network who could benefit from backyard gardens.

Questions? Want to be more involved? You can visit <http://goodgrub.org/kitchen-garden-project/> for information or reach us at BackyardGardens@GoodGrub.org or KGPintern@goodgrub.org

Want a garden for your organization or another community site? Organizational and School Gardens are opportunities for partnership with GRuB on garden building projects. Past partnerships have included schools, transitional housing projects, tribes, and community spaces. Organizational and school partners contribute to the material cost and volunteer organizing. For an application or more information contact BackyardGardens@goodgrub.org.

Above our household income cutoff for KGP but still want a garden?

Food Investment Gardens (FIG) are a backyard garden option that is open to households of all income levels. The gardens are build on a sliding-fee-scale with a portion of the fee getting reinvested into GRuB's programs including the Kitchen Garden Project. For more information visit <http://goodgrub.org/kitchen-garden-project/fig/> or email BackyardGardens@goodgrub.org.

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GRuB • Growing Food, People, and Communities

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5. This year's flu season is off to a dangerous start: 43 states have reported widespread flu-like activity [1] and the total number of childhood fatalities during this year's flu season has already reached a tragic twenty-one. [2]

The flu is spreading, but we're missing one of our most important tools to fight the flu: paid sick days!

Curbing the flu epidemic is important for the sake of our families, children, and communities. And you hold a magic weapon — [your power to ask Congress to support paid sick days](#).

[So flex it right now and send a message to your members of Congress telling them to help combat the spread of the flu and to support paid sick days!](#)

Each time I hear or read that the best way to stop the spread of the flu is to stay home, I want to throw my hands up in the air! Forty-four million workers quite literally can't afford to do that in the United States because they can't earn a single paid sick day. [4]

Paychecks are precious for working families and without paid sick days, many parents have to go to work sick or send their children to school sick. Our lack of a national paid sick days policy is fueling the flu epidemic. Now more than ever, we must ensure that all workers, including those serving our

food and caring for our children, have paid sick days. [Urge Congress to combat the flu epidemic by supporting paid sick days for all workers!](#)

Lisa, a MomsRising member in Pennsylvania knows first-hand how devastating a lack of paid sick days is when your family is struck by the flu.

"I'm a single mom of two who lives from paycheck to paycheck. The worst time was when we were all hit with the flu. All three of our cases were considered "mild", but I was off work for a full 6 days straight. I was barely able to pay for food let alone mortgage and car payments. We are lucky that we are for the most part healthy, but even a day or two at home with the kids is devastating to my shoe-string budget. It's tough when you have to make a choice between food and medication, there's no winner there."

When working people have no choice but to go to work sick, they risk infecting others and delay seeking care. As Lisa said, there's no winner there. That's why paid sick days reduce the spread of the flu and are a win-win for our health and family economic security.

[Don't delay – tell Congress today to support paid sick days and help curb this year's epidemic flu outbreak!](#)

Let's help the new Congress get off to a strong start during their first week in session. Let's face it, they could use the help. A recent poll found that lice and root canals were more popular than the last Congress, but supporting paid sick days is a one-way ticket to popularity for the 114th Congress. [5] A whopping 81% of voters, across political parties, gender, and race, say it's important for lawmakers to consider paid sick days laws because they help keep working families economically secure. [6]

In fact, a movement for paid sick days is sweeping the nation and in 2014 alone, two states and ten cities passed paid sick days bills — that's more than 2006 - 2013 COMBINED! [7] It's time for Congress to join in the momentum because paid sick days are a job-saving workplace right that lifts up American families and employers. It's a win-win because businesses benefit too. When employers implement paid sick days, typically at little to

no cost, they actually end up saving money because the cost of replacing an employee is around a fifth of their total salary. [8] For example, the paid sick days ballot measure that just passed in Massachusetts, thanks to overwhelming voter support, will save employers \$26 million annually. [9] Incredible!

Every mom is a SuperMom, but we can't fight off an entire flu epidemic alone, and we should never have to choose between our families' health and our families' economic security.

If we all take action together urging Congress to support paid sick days, they won't be able to ignore us, or ignore the headlines across the nation about the dangers of this year's flu season.

[Don't forget to make sure Congress knows how important paid sick days are to curbing the flu outbreak. This can't wait!](#)

Together, we're a powerful force for women and families.

- Sara, Ruth, Anita, Elyssa, and the whole [MomsRising.org](#) team

P.S. Do you have a personal story about paid sick days — how they've helped your family or how you've struggled without them? [CLICK HERE to easily share your story and we'll deliver it to your members of Congress so they know how important paid sick days are for hardworking families.](#)

[1] http://action.momsrising.org/go/5209?t=11&akid=6145.207294.IG_dd_

[2]

http://action.momsrising.org/go/5210?t=13&akid=6145.207294.IG_dd_ [3]

http://action.momsrising.org/go/3341?t=15&akid=6145.207294.IG_dd_ [4]

http://action.momsrising.org/go/5211?t=17&akid=6145.207294.IG_dd_ [5]

http://action.momsrising.org/go/5078?t=19&akid=6145.207294.IG_dd_ [6]

http://action.momsrising.org/go/5077?t=21&akid=6145.207294.IG_dd_ [7]

http://action.momsrising.org/go/5076?t=23&akid=6145.207294.IG_dd_ [8]

http://action.momsrising.org/go/5079?t=25&akid=6145.207294.IG_dd_ [9]

http://action.momsrising.org/go/5032?t=27&akid=6145.207294.IG_dd_

6. The 10th Annual Thurston County Homeless Census is rapidly approaching, and we could use your help in this unique service opportunity!

The 2015 Homeless Census starts on Thursday January 29th and continues until January 31st with activities all across Thurston County.

The annual county-wide Homeless Census is how we learn who is homeless and why. This information helps guide funding and other resources to critically needed programs and projects. Volunteers also help staff the popular “Homeless Connect Event,” a 1-day drop-in warming center with free hot meals and coffee, clothing/commodities giveaway, haircuts, medical services and referrals to shelters and other services.

Many shifts & volunteer activities are available all across Thurston County.

Please sign up to join us here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/2015HomelessCensus>

Once you sign up, we will get in touch to provide more information and training opportunities.

Thank you for your help and service, and for making this a better community for all!

**Renata Rollins
Volunteer Coordinator 360.753.8568 rrollins@ci.olympia.wa.us**

7. the DSHS Mobile CSO will be at the

Olympia Union Gospel Mission, 413 Franklin St Olympia

Thursday February 5, 2015 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

YOU CAN APPLY FOR:

Cash Assistance Basic Food Assistance Child Care Services

You can also drop off paperwork, complete an Eligibility Review, Mid-Certification Review or make changes to an existing case.