

MOTION OF THE PORT OF SEATTLE COMMISSION
EXPRESSING OPPOSITION TO INITIATIVE 1515

Adopted June 28, 2016

Text of Motion

The Port Commission of the Port of Seattle supports the Washington Won't Discriminate campaign and joins hundreds of community, labor, and business leaders in opposition to Initiative 1515.

Statement of Support

The Port of Seattle seeks to create jobs and conduct business with the highest ethical standards, to honor the community, and to embrace the richness of a diverse workplace.

The Port of Seattle created the Office of Social Responsibility, which is a catalyst for equity and social change throughout the Port and the community.

The tragedy in Orlando underscores the importance for us to publicly reaffirm these long-standing commitments and to support our transgender friends, family, coworkers, and neighbors.

For ten years Washington's anti-discrimination laws have protected our transgender friends, family, coworkers, and neighbors from discrimination on the job, in housing, and in public places.

Seventy-five percent of Fortune 500 companies have anti-discrimination policies that explicitly cover gender identity.

Passage of I-1515 would take away Washington's anti-discrimination protections that for ten years have protected transgender men and women from unfair discrimination.

Passage of I-1515 could result in violation of federal law and could jeopardize up to \$4.5 billion per year in federal funding for our state's schools and other vital services according to the Williams Institute at the University of California, Los Angeles, School of Law.

The passing of the similar House Bill 2 in North Carolina has led to significant economic costs including over \$3.1 million lost to the Greater Raleigh Convention and Visitors Bureau alone, with an additional \$44 million in convention bookings at risk.

I-1515 could drive away billions in economic development from businesses, tourism, and conventions.

Passage of I-1515 will have unintended consequences for the privacy and safety of all Washingtonians and would lead to more discrimination, harassment, and invasions of privacy in public areas.

I-1515 invites costly lawsuits against our schools, state and local governments, and businesses.