



Legislation Text

File #: Res 31695, Version: 2

CITY OF SEATTLE

RESOLUTION _____

A RESOLUTION supporting City of Seattle Initiative Measure 124 and urging Seattle voters to vote “Yes” on Initiative 124 on the November 8, 2016 general election ballot.

WHEREAS, hotel employers and hotel employees are vital contributors to the Seattle community, fueling an industry that contributes over \$6 billion to the local economy; and

WHEREAS, the Seattle hospitality industry also receives significant public support through public investments like the \$1.6 billion dollar expansion of the Washington State Convention Center; and

WHEREAS, the hospitality industry is a crucial source of accessible employment for women, immigrants, and people of color in Seattle, as more than 80% of hotel housekeepers are women and a majority of hotel housekeepers are immigrants; and

WHEREAS, providing housekeeping services can be difficult, labor-intensive work that can potentially lead to physical ailments or in some cases even injuries for housekeepers; and

WHEREAS, housekeepers face cultural, language, and other barriers to reporting harassment and assault committed by guests; and

WHEREAS, hotel workers cleaning rooms and providing other services are often alone and potentially in a vulnerable position; and

WHEREAS, hospitality workers have the lowest rate of access to employer offered health insurance in the state of Washington; and

WHEREAS, Initiative 124 would prevent sexual harassment and assault in hotels by requiring guest notification of employee protections, providing workers with panic buttons, standardizing hotels’

responses to accusations against guests, and banning known harassers from hotels; and

WHEREAS, Initiative 124 would reduce workplace injury and pain for hotel housekeepers by reducing

housekeeping workloads for employees of large hotels; and

WHEREAS, Initiative 124 would improve access to affordable family medical coverage to workers at large

hotels who earn at or below 400% of the federal poverty line; and

WHEREAS, Initiative 124 would be a significant step forward in advancing Seattle's values of equity,

inclusion, and gender and racial justice; and

WHEREAS, after notice in accordance with RCW 42.17A.555 and Seattle Municipal Code Section 2.04.300,

persons in favor of Initiative 124 and those opposed to it have been given an equal opportunity to share

their views in an open public meeting, NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE, THE MAYOR

CONCURRING, THAT:

Section 1. The Mayor and the City Council support the hotel industry and improving worker safety, access to health care, and access to job security.

Section 2. The Mayor and City Council urge Seattle voters to vote "Yes" on Initiative 124 in the November 8, 2016 general election.

Adopted by the City Council the _____ day of _____, 2016, and signed by me in open session in authentication of its adoption this _____ day of _____, 2016.

President _____ of the City Council

The Mayor concurred the _____ day of _____, 2016.

Edward B. Murray, Mayor

Filed by me this _____ day of _____, 2016.

Monica Martinez Simmons, City Clerk

(Seal)