

## **MOTION OF THE PORT OF SEATTLE COMMISSION**

### **EXPRESSING OPPOSITION TO INITIATIVE 1515**

**Proposed 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's Century Agenda calls for the Port to create jobs and economic vitality.

The Port of Seattle's stated values include conducting business with the highest ethical standards, honoring the community, and embracing the richness of a diverse workplace.

The Port of Seattle's Office of Social Responsibility is charged with being an inspirational catalyst for equity and social change throughout the Port and the Community.

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 place.

75 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.

The passing of the similar HB2 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.