

Resolution in support of City of Seattle Initiative 124.

Initiative 124 protects Seattle’s hotel workers from sexual harassment and inhumane workloads while providing access to affordable medical care and basic job security.

WHEREAS hotel housekeepers, room service attendants, and other hotel employees often work alone in guest rooms, 80% of hotel housekeepers are women, incidences of sexual harassment are routine, and women work under fear of harassment and assault; and

WHEREAS the “a guest is always right” mentality prevalent in the hotel industry deters employees from making complaints against guests and prevents management from taking action to protect employees; and

WHEREAS hotel housekeepers suffer extreme rates of on-the-job injury—a higher rate of injury than coalminers—due to the strenuous and repetitive nature of their work that includes lifting mattresses weighing well above federal occupational safety standards; and

WHEREAS hospitality workers have the lowest rates of access to employer offered health insurance and the second lowest employer contribution towards health care premiums of any industry in the State of Washington; and

WHEREAS average monthly employee premiums for family coverage exceed \$500, well out of reach for low-wage hospitality workers; and

WHEREAS despite the Affordable Care Act, many workers do not have access to affordable family health insurance through their employer or the health care exchange, and many are still reliant on state aid; and

WHEREAS changes in hotel ownership and management are disruptive to the livelihoods of hotel workers, who stand to lose their jobs during such transitions; and

WHEREAS Initiative 124 will create health and safety standards to protect Seattle’s hotel housekeepers from sexual harassment and inhumane workloads; and

WHEREAS Initiative 124 will provide better access to affordable family medical care and basic job security for hotel workers; be it therefore

RESOLVED that the 36th District Democrats support signature-gathering for Initiative 124; and be it further

RESOLVED that the 36th District Democrats encourage Seattle City Council members to endorse and adopt Initiative 124; and be it further

RESOLVED that the 36th District Democrats, through their Chair, shall send messages of support to Seattle Mayor Ed Murray and all Seattle City Council members; and be it finally

RESOLVED that the 36th District Democrats, through their Chair, shall submit this resolution to the King County Democrats and Washington State Democratic Central Committee for further consideration.