



Edward B. Murray
Mayor

Bruce A. Harrell
Council President

January 25, 2016

Dear Legislative Delegation Members:

We are writing you today to formally request that you oppose HB 2589 *AN ACT Relating to allowing the use of gender-segregated facilities; and amending RCW 49.60.030.*

The City of Seattle, since 1999, has adopted non-discrimination legislation for transgender youth and adults on the basis of gender identity in the areas of public accommodations, employment, housing, and fair contracting. In October 2015, the Seattle City Council adopted CB 118455, which ensures that transgender and gender nonconforming people have safe and equal access to restroom facilities in City buildings and other places of public accommodation in Seattle. Additionally, Washington's transgender youth, adults, and their families have been protected by the state's nondiscrimination law since 2006.

Our state extended critical human rights protections to lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people 10 years ago with the passage of the 2006 Anderson-Murray Anti-Discrimination Law. Transgender people are part of our families, workplaces, our neighborhoods, and our places of worship. To live and work safely in Seattle and in Washington State, transgender and gender nonconforming people need to be able to use public accommodations, such as restrooms, just like everyone else, without fear of harassment or discrimination. Any legislation that aims to take away a basic protection afforded to all Washingtonians, particularly the transgender community, harms all constituents.

The Seattle City Council goes on record in opposing HB 2589, and urges the Seattle delegation of the Washington Legislature and the leadership of the legislature to oppose this bill.

Sincerely,

Mayor Edward B. Murray

Council President Bruce A. Harrell

Councilmember Sally Bagshaw

Councilmember Tim Burgess

Councilmember M. Lorena González

Councilmember Lisa Herbold

Councilmember Rob Johnson

Councilmember Debora Juarez

Councilmember Mike O'Brien

Councilmember Kshama Sawant

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