

Title: UAW Local 4121 Resolution Against Washington Initiative 1552
Authors: UAW 4121 Trans Equity Working Group
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WHEREAS, we the members of United Auto Workers Local 4121 (hereafter known as UAW Local 4121) represent 4,500 academic student employees (hereafter known as ASEs) working as TAs, RAs, Readers, Graders, Tutors, and Staff Assistants on all three University of Washington (hereafter known as UW) campuses (Seattle, Tacoma, and Bothell); and

WHEREAS, UW is one of the largest state employers, UW receives funding from the state of Washington, and UW provides jobs to ASEs, including trans and gender nonconforming students, and;

WHEREAS, we the members of UAW Local 4121 recognize and affirm that all individuals, including trans and gender nonconforming individuals in Washington State, have a right to privacy, safety, and the ability to use restrooms and other public facilities without fearing for their safety or having their identity questioned; and

WHEREAS, Initiative 1552 would reverse 10-year-old state protections under WAC 162-32-060 that guarantee access to restrooms and other gender-segregated accommodations “that are consistent with that individual's gender expression or gender identity”; and

WHEREAS, Initiative 1552 does nothing to improve public safety, as numerous existing laws already prohibit entering restrooms to harass or invade others’ privacy, and instead perpetuates harmful stereotypes about trans and gender nonconforming people, ignoring that trans and gender nonconforming people are frequently the targets of violence in bathrooms; and

WHEREAS, similar initiatives passed in other states have clearly demonstrated that targeting trans and gender nonconforming people in bathrooms and public accommodations is bad for workers and bad for the economy; and

WHEREAS, Initiative 1552 would encourage increased harassment and abuse of trans and gender nonconforming people, including students in Washington public schools; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that we the members of UAW Local 4121 consider Initiative 1552 to be a clear and present danger to the civil and privacy rights of trans and gender nonconforming students and workers; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we the members of UAW Local 4121 urge all eligible voters in Washington State to decline to sign this initiative in order to prevent it from being put on the November 2017 ballot; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we the members of UAW Local 4121 will work with Washington Won’t Discriminate and other groups fighting this dangerous initiative to promote and uphold the basic safety and privacy rights of trans and gender nonconforming students and workers; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we the members of UAW Local 4121 will partner with Washington Won't Discriminate in their campaign to engage 15,000 people to Decline to Sign during Seattle Pride weekend; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we the members of UAW Local 4121 strongly urge UW to publicly join us in opposing Initiative 1552 to protect the civil and privacy rights of its trans and gender nonconforming students and workers; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this resolution be forwarded to the Washington Won't Discriminate campaign; to President Ana Mari Cauce and the University of Washington Administration; to the membership of UAW Local 4121; to the Washington State Labor Council; to the local media outlets; and to others as appropriate.