

Sponsor: Hasegawa

**PORT OF SEATTLE
RESOLUTION NO. 3855**

A RESOLUTION of the Port of Seattle Commission expressing opposition to Initiative Measure No. IL26-638, concerning sex verification requirements for participation in girls' school sports, appearing on the November 3, 2026 general election ballot; and reaffirming the Commission's commitment, first expressed in Order No. 2022-08, to protect the privacy of personal health information and health care decisions.

WHEREAS, the voters of King County authorized and approved the formation of a port district coterminous with King County to be known as the Port of Seattle in a special election on September 5, 1911; and

WHEREAS, the Port of Seattle Commission is the legally constituted governing body of the Port of Seattle; and

WHEREAS, the Port of Seattle's Century Agenda commits the Port to "become a model for equity, diversity, and inclusion," and the Port has long recognized that our region's prosperity — our ability to attract a talented workforce, welcome visitors from around the world, and grow our maritime and aviation economies — depends on communities where every person is treated with dignity and respect; and

WHEREAS, the Port of Seattle established the Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in 2019, the first standalone equity department at any port authority in the United States, and through its Welcoming Port Policy Directive has committed to ensuring that every person who works at, travels through, or does business with Port facilities feels welcome, safe, and able to access services, benefits, and opportunities; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, the Commission publicly opposed Initiative 1515, which sought to restrict transgender people's access to facilities consistent with their gender identity, and in the years since the Port has acted on that commitment: by Motion 2018-08 the Commission directed the development of a gender-inclusive restroom plan for Seattle-Tacoma International Airport, and the Port has since opened all-gender facilities that are among the first of their kind at any North American airport and expanded services for transgender, nonbinary, and gender-nonconforming travelers, so that our airport serves as a safe and welcoming gateway for all; and

WHEREAS, in June 2023, the Commission's Pride proclamation expressly recognized that "new discriminatory and bigoted laws targeting the LGBTQIA2S+ community are on the rise" and committed the Port to rejecting discrimination and supporting LGBTQIA2S+ individuals, their families, and their fight for equal rights; and

48 **WHEREAS**, among the Port’s core equity principles, adopted in its equity framework
49 Values in Action, is “Prioritizing the Most Vulnerable,” which provides: “In developing policies,
50 practices, and procedures, we are committed to engaging those who are most directly and
51 adversely impacted by our work,” and which defines vulnerable stakeholders to include both
52 people within the Port and vulnerable communities and no community the Port serves is more
53 vulnerable than children, so a measure that targets children, compelling the disclosure of their
54 most private information at an age when they are least able to protect themselves, is precisely the
55 harm the Port’s equity commitments oblige this Commission to speak against; and
56

57 **WHEREAS**, the Port’s aviation, cruise, and tourism lines of business anchor a visitor
58 economy that depends directly on this region’s reputation as a safe and welcoming destination:
59 Seattle-Tacoma International Airport serves more than 50 million travelers each year; the Port’s
60 record 2025 cruise season carried nearly two million revenue passengers and generated an
61 estimated \$1.2 billion in regional economic activity; and a record 2.1 million cruise passengers
62 are expected in the 2026 season; and
63

64 **WHEREAS**, in June and July 2026 the Port helped welcome the world to Seattle for the
65 FIFA World Cup, during which Seattle-Tacoma International Airport recorded three of the
66 busiest days in its history and more than 750,000 fans attended official fan celebrations across
67 the city, a demonstration that the international sporting events, conventions, and tourism the Port
68 competes to attract are awarded to, and succeed in, destinations known for welcoming every
69 athlete, fan, and visitor; and
70

71 **WHEREAS**, the experience of other states demonstrates that laws perceived as licensing
72 discrimination carry measurable economic consequences: after North Carolina enacted House
73 Bill 2 in 2016, an Associated Press analysis projected more than \$3.76 billion in lost economic
74 activity over twelve years as employers canceled expansions, conventions relocated, and the
75 NCAA and NBA moved championship events and the All-Star Game out of the state, losses
76 concentrated in precisely the aviation-, tourism-, and event-driven sectors on which the Port’s
77 revenues and the region’s jobs depend; and
78

79 **WHEREAS**, the Port invests millions of dollars each year in the young people now
80 enrolled in Washington’s public schools, through its Career Connected Learning programs and
81 high school internships at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport, the \$4.1 million Youth Maritime
82 Career Launch program developed with the Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle and
83 Washington Maritime Blue, and its Duwamish Valley youth programs, because today’s students
84 are the Port’s future workforce, and measures that make schools less safe or push young people
85 out of school activities directly undermine those investments; and
86
87
88
89

90 **WHEREAS**, on July 12, 2022, following the United States Supreme Court’s decision in
91 *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization* overturning *Roe v. Wade*, the Port of Seattle
92 Commission unanimously adopted Order No. 2022-08, aligning Port policing policy with
93 Washington State Governor Jay Inslee’s Directive 22-12 and directing the Port of Seattle Police

Department to refrain from cooperating or assisting with any out-of-state investigation, prosecution, or other legal action concerning reproductive health care that is lawful in Washington; and

WHEREAS, in adopting Order No. 2022-08, the Commission affirmed an enduring principle: that a person’s private health care information and health care decisions belong to that person, and that government must not compel their disclosure, weaponize them, or condition participation in public life upon surrendering them; and

WHEREAS, Initiative Measure No. IL26-638, sponsored by the political committee Let’s Go Washington, was certified to the November 3, 2026 general election ballot after the Legislature declined to act on it during the 2026 session; the measure would require school districts and nonprofit athletics organizations to prohibit students it defines as “biologically male” from competing in athletic activities designated for female students, and would require every student seeking to participate in girls’ sports, in kindergarten through twelfth grade, to submit documentation from a health care provider verifying her sex on the basis of reproductive anatomy, genetic makeup, or endogenously produced testosterone levels; and

WHEREAS, Initiative Measure No. IL26-638 is the most far-reaching measure of its kind in the nation: it is the only such measure that would subject cisgender girls, and not only transgender girls, to medical sex verification, and it would expose children to invasive, medically unnecessary examinations and the compelled disclosure of private medical information as the price of playing school sports; and

WHEREAS, Initiative Measure No. IL26-638 rests on the same premise the Commission rejected in Order No. 2022-08, that government may compel the disclosure of private health information and intrude upon deeply personal health care matters, and would single out transgender young people, and indeed all girls, for surveillance and exclusion contrary to the protections of the Washington Law Against Discrimination, chapter 49.60 RCW; and its enactment would mark Washington, in the eyes of the athletes, governing bodies, event organizers, and visitors this region has successfully courted, as a state that polices children’s bodies as a condition of play, the very reputation that caused sports leagues and event organizers to abandon other states; and

WHEREAS, civic institutions across the region and state have urged rejection of the measure, including the Washington State PTA and the American Civil Liberties Union of Washington, and on July 28, 2026, the Tacoma City Council unanimously adopted Resolution No. 41972 expressing its opposition to both of Let’s Go Washington’s initiatives; and

WHEREAS, the Port of Seattle is a major public employer that competes nationally for talent, and workers, employers, and visitors alike choose regions whose laws protect their employees, their children, and their neighbors; discrimination against any community, including the LGBTQIA2S+ community, diminishes the welcoming region, thriving workforce, and

vibrant economy that the Port exists to advance.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Port of Seattle Commission as follows:

SECTION 1. The Port of Seattle Commission hereby expresses its opposition to Initiative Measure No. IL26-638, finding that the measure would compel the disclosure of private health information, endanger young people, undermine the Port’s investments in its future workforce, threaten the welcoming reputation on which the Port’s aviation, cruise, tourism, and events businesses depend, and conflict with the values of equity, dignity, and inclusion that guide the Port of Seattle.

SECTION 2. The Commission reaffirms Order No. 2022-08 and the principles underlying it, including the protection of private health care information and health care decisions from compelled disclosure and government intrusion, and directs that the policies implemented under Order No. 2022-08 remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 3. The Commission reaffirms its Welcoming Port Policy Directive and its commitments to equity, diversity, and inclusion, and affirms that all people, including transgender youth and the LGBTQIA2S+ community, are welcome, valued, and safe at the gateways and in the workplaces of the Port of Seattle.

ADOPTED by the Port of Seattle Commission at a duly noticed public meeting thereof, held this 13th day of October, 2026, and duly authenticated in open session by the signatures of the commissioners voting in favor thereof and the seal of the Commission.

Port of Seattle Commission