

Sponsor: Hasegawa

**PORT OF SEATTLE
RESOLUTION NO. 3856**

A RESOLUTION of the Port of Seattle Commission expressing opposition to Initiative Measure No. IL26-001, concerning the disclosure of private student medical and mental health records without student consent, 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

47 **WHEREAS**, in June 2023, the Commission’s Pride proclamation expressly recognized
48 that “new discriminatory and bigoted laws targeting the LGBTQIA2S+ community are on the
49 rise” and committed the Port to rejecting discrimination and supporting LGBTQIA2S+
50 individuals, their families, and their fight for equal rights; and
51

52 **WHEREAS**, among the Port’s core equity principles, adopted in its equity framework
53 Values in Action, is “Prioritizing the Most Vulnerable,” which provides: “In developing policies,
54 practices, and procedures, we are committed to engaging those who are most directly and
55 adversely impacted by our work,” and which defines vulnerable stakeholders to include both
56 people within the Port and vulnerable communities and no community the Port serves is more
57 vulnerable than children, so a measure that targets children, compelling the disclosure of their
58 most private information at an age when they are least able to protect themselves, is precisely the
59 harm the Port’s equity commitments oblige this Commission to speak against; and
60

61 **WHEREAS**, the Port’s aviation, cruise, and tourism lines of business anchor a visitor
62 economy that depends directly on this region’s reputation as a safe and welcoming destination:
63 Seattle-Tacoma International Airport serves more than 50 million travelers each year; the Port’s
64 record 2025 cruise season carried nearly two million revenue passengers and generated an
65 estimated \$1.2 billion in regional economic activity; and a record 2.1 million cruise passengers
66 are expected in the 2026 season; and
67

68 **WHEREAS**, in June and July 2026 the Port helped welcome the world to Seattle for the
69 FIFA World Cup, during which Seattle-Tacoma International Airport recorded three of the
70 busiest days in its history and more than 750,000 fans attended official fan celebrations across
71 the city, a demonstration that the international sporting events, conventions, and tourism the Port
72 competes to attract are awarded to, and succeed in, destinations known for welcoming every
73 athlete, fan, and visitor; and
74

75 **WHEREAS**, the experience of other states demonstrates that laws perceived as licensing
76 discrimination carry measurable economic consequences: after North Carolina enacted House
77 Bill 2 in 2016, an Associated Press analysis projected more than \$3.76 billion in lost economic
78 activity over twelve years as employers canceled expansions, conventions relocated, and the
79 NCAA and NBA moved championship events and the All-Star Game out of the state, losses
80 concentrated in precisely the aviation-, tourism-, and event-driven sectors on which the Port’s
81 revenues and the region’s jobs depend; and
82

83 **WHEREAS**, the Port invests millions of dollars each year in the young people now
84 enrolled in Washington’s public schools, through its Career Connected Learning programs and
85 high school internships at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport, the \$4.1 million Youth Maritime
86 Career Launch program developed with the Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle and
87 Washington Maritime Blue, and its Duwamish Valley youth programs, because today’s students
88 are the Port’s future workforce, and measures that make schools less safe or push young people
89 out of school activities directly undermine those investments; and
90
91
92

93 **WHEREAS**, on July 12, 2022, following the United States Supreme Court’s decision in
94 Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization overturning Roe v. Wade, the Port of Seattle
95 Commission unanimously adopted Order No. 2022-08, aligning Port policing policy with
96 Washington State Governor Jay Inslee’s Directive 22-12 and directing the Port of Seattle Police
97 Department to refrain from cooperating or assisting with any out-of-state investigation,
98 prosecution, or other legal action concerning reproductive health care that is lawful in
99 Washington; and

100
101 **WHEREAS**, in adopting Order No. 2022-08, the Commission affirmed an enduring
102 principle: that a person’s private health care information and health care decisions belong to that
103 person, and that government must not compel their disclosure, weaponize them, or condition
104 participation in public life upon surrendering them; and

105
106 **WHEREAS**, Initiative Measure No. IL26-001, sponsored by the political committee
107 Let’s Go Washington, was certified to the November 3, 2026 general election ballot after the
108 Legislature declined to act on it during the 2026 session; the measure would partially repeal the
109 student privacy protections of Engrossed Substitute House Bill 1296, enacted by the Legislature
110 in 2025, by allowing certain private student medical and mental health records to be disclosed to
111 parents without the student’s consent and by requiring parental notification before medical
112 services are offered; and

113
114 **WHEREAS**, not every young person has a supportive or safe adult at home, and stripping
115 students of confidential access to counseling, health care, and trusted school staff would place
116 lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer students and other vulnerable youth at heightened
117 risk of harm, rejection, and instability, and would chill young people from seeking the care and
118 support they need; and

119
120 **WHEREAS**, Initiative Measure No. IL26-001 rests on the same premise the Commission
121 rejected in Order No. 2022-08, that government may compel the disclosure of private health
122 information and intrude upon deeply personal health care matters, and the students it would strip
123 of confidential counseling and care are the same young people the Port recruits into its
124 internships, career-connected learning, and maritime career programs, so that harm to their
125 stability, mental health, and school engagement is harm to the Port’s own workforce pipeline;
126 and

127
128 **WHEREAS**, civic institutions across the region and state have urged rejection of the
129 measure, including the Washington State PTA and the American Civil Liberties Union of
130 Washington, and on July 28, 2026, the Tacoma City Council unanimously adopted Resolution
131 No. 41972 expressing its opposition to both of Let’s Go Washington’s initiatives; and

132
133 **WHEREAS**, the Port of Seattle is a major public employer that competes nationally for
134 talent, and workers, employers, and visitors alike choose regions whose laws protect their
135 employees, their children, and their neighbors; discrimination against any community, including
136 the LGBTQIA2S+ community, diminishes the welcoming region, thriving workforce, and
137 vibrant economy that the Port exists to advance.

139 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Port of Seattle Commission as
140 follows:
141

142 SECTION 1. The Port of Seattle Commission hereby expresses its opposition to Initiative
143 Measure No. IL26-001, finding that the measure would compel the disclosure of private health
144 information, endanger young people, undermine the Port’s investments in its future workforce,
145 threaten the welcoming reputation on which the Port’s aviation, cruise, tourism, and events
146 businesses depend, and conflict with the values of equity, dignity, and inclusion that guide the Port
147 of Seattle.
148

149 SECTION 2. The Commission reaffirms Order No. 2022-08 and the principles
150 underlying it, including the protection of private health care information and health care decisions
151 from compelled disclosure and government intrusion, and directs that the policies implemented
152 under Order No. 2022-08 remain in full force and effect.
153

154 SECTION 3. The Commission reaffirms its Welcoming Port Policy Directive and its
155 commitments to equity, diversity, and inclusion, and affirms that all people, including transgender
156 youth and the LGBTQIA2S+ community, are welcome, valued, and safe at the gateways and in
157 the workplaces of the Port of Seattle.
158

159 **ADOPTED** by the Port of Seattle Commission at a duly noticed public meeting thereof,
160 held this 13th day of October, 2026, and duly authenticated in open session by the signatures of
161 the commissioners voting in favor thereof and the seal of the Commission.
162

163 _____
164
165 _____
166
167 _____
168
169 _____
170
171 _____
172

Port of Seattle Commission