



Councilmember Sally Clark  
Chair, Human Services and Economic Resiliency Committee  
Seattle City Hall  
600 Fourth Avenue, 2nd Fl.  
Seattle, WA 98104

April 10, 2015

**RE: Gender Inclusive Restrooms in Seattle**

Dear Councilmember Clark, Mayor Murray, Council President Burgess, and Seattle LGBT Commission,

We are writing to express our sincerest gratitude and support of the most recently proposed changes to business regulations that would require businesses with single-stall restrooms to provide gender-neutral signage indicating that the restrooms may be used by any gender. This is an urgent issue for our constituents and look forward with great anticipation for its introduction to the council.

As many on the council are aware – transgender people in Seattle still face alarming rates of discrimination, harassment, and violence. In particular, transgender people are often targeted and are especially vulnerable in gender-segregated spaces such as bathrooms, locker rooms, or sex-segregated shelters. For many of our members at Gender Justice League bathrooms area an area of serious safety concern. Especially at a time when other states are proposing horrific restrictions on where transgender people can use the bathroom, we are extremely proud to see the City of Seattle taking proactive steps to provide safety for all of our citizens, especially transgender people.

The National Transgender Discrimination Survey of 6,456 transgender people showed that 53% of respondents reported being verbally harassed or disrespected in a place of public accommodation, with 8% reporting being physically attacked or assaulted in places of public accommodation. These disturbing statistics clearly shows why this policy is so needed in our city.

We stand at the ready to work with the council, Mayor's office, and LGBT Commission to educate the public about this important issue for transgender people. We are sad to be losing you, Councilmember Clark, and want to give our sincerest thanks for your incredible championing of issues that impact the LGBTQ community – and especially transgender people. Our hope is that this policy will be yet another step towards creating equity and safety for Seattle's transgender citizens.

With warmest regard and thanks,

Danni Askini  
Executive Director