



Mike McGinn, Mayor
City of Seattle

May 9, 2011

Brad Hoover, Co-Chair, Seattle LGBT Commission
Eleazar Juarez-Diaz, Co-Chair, Seattle LGBT Commission
Erica Sekins, Co-Chair, Seattle Commission for People with disAbilities
Laura Gramer, Co-Chair, Seattle Commission for People with disAbilities
Abigail Echo-Hawk, Co-Chair, Seattle Women's Commission
Jamila Johnson, Co-Chair, Seattle Women's Commission
Devon Abdallah, Co-Chair, Immigrant and Refugee Commission
Lesley Irizarry-Hougan, Co-Chair, Immigrant and Refugee Commission
Roslyn Solomon, Co-Chair, Seattle Human Rights Commission
Christopher Stearns, Co-Chair, Seattle Human Rights Commission

Dear Commissioners,

I have reviewed your memorandum of March 23, 2011 regarding transgender health insurance coverage exclusions. Thank you for the thoughtful and compelling work that you have done to research this issue and formulate your recommendation.

I agree with your recommendation that the City should remove transgender exclusions in all health care plans offered to City of Seattle employees. Providing inclusive medical benefits to our valued transgender employees is not cost-prohibitive and is the right thing to do. I will ask the Seattle Personnel Department to work to remove these exclusions in its negotiations with the City's health plans.

Thank you for your service to the people and City of Seattle.

Sincerely,

Mike McGinn
Mayor

Copy: Julie Nelson, Director, Seattle Office for Civil Rights,
Darwyn Anderson, Acting Director, Seattle Personnel Department,
Councilmember Bruce Harrell, Chair, Energy, Technology and Civil Rights Committee,
Seattle City Council Members

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