

**Subject:** Support the ban on caste-based discrimination  
**Date:** Thursday, February 16, 2023 at 10:16:13 AM Pacific Standard Time  
**From:** Michael Byun <MichaelB@acrs.org>  
**To:** LEG\_CouncilMembers <council@seattle.gov>  
**CC:** Shomya Tripathy <shomyat@acrs.org>

**CAUTION: External Email**

Dear Members of City Council:

Asian Counseling and Referral Service strongly supports the proposed ordinance to ban caste-based discrimination. As an organization that serves vulnerable Asian, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander immigrants and refugees in Seattle, we are well aware of the nuanced and culturally-specific systems of oppression that our clients must navigate, in addition to and compounded with poverty, mental health, linguistic barriers, and more. One of these systems is caste-based discrimination, and we know this is a pervasive, worldwide issue, including here in Seattle. As a social justice organization, we hold a deep responsibility to trust and believe our most vulnerable community members, including those who are caste-oppressed, when they say they are experiencing discrimination, harm, and oppression. We urge you to stand with us and vote in favor of the proposed ordinance to add caste as a prohibited category for discrimination.

Michael

Michael Byun (he/him)  
Executive Director  
Asian Counseling and Referral Service

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