

October 22, 2017

Dear Seattle Mayoral Candidates,

We are domestic workers who have come together to form Seattle Domestic Workers Alliance (SDWA). Domestic workers work in the private home, whether we are directly hired by a private household or by an agency – this includes nannies, child care providers, home care workers caring for people with disabilities and seniors, house cleaners, cooks, and gardeners. We are organizing our fellow domestic workers in the childcare and housecleaning industries to end our exclusion from legal protections, establish citywide standards in our industries, and ensure that workers have a voice. SDWA is part of Working Washington and supported by a coalition that includes Casa Latina, SEIU 775, and National Domestic Workers Alliance.

Despite our important role in Seattle households and the overall local economy, our work is largely invisible. We don't get the respect, dignity and some of the basic legal protections provided to other workers in Seattle, including workers compensation, protections from discrimination and harassment, the ability to collectively bargain and other labor standards. Some of us, like live-in or casual workers, are not even covered under the most basic protections of minimum wage and overtime. It is time for the City to provide us with the same workplace rights and protections other Seattle workers get.

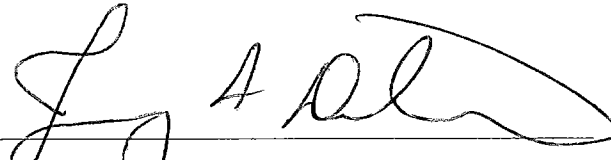
At forums on June 1st and June 15th, our fellow nannies and housecleaners asked you to speak on how you would address domestic workers' right to organize. Several weeks later, on Thursday, August 31st, you promised to focus on a Domestic Workers' Bill of Rights in the City of Seattle. We greatly appreciate your commitment to defending and expanding our rights. We now want to ask you to go one step further and commit to focus on taking the following two actions in your first year in office:


1. Passing a Domestic Worker Bill of Rights in the City of Seattle.
2. Create a city commission that facilitates negotiation of wages, working conditions, portable benefits and our right to organize. The commission would:
 - a. Include domestic workers, so we have real representation and a real voice in our industries.
 - b. Ensure we are paid a living wage

- c. Have a mandate to solicit public input from our fellow workers, advocates and industry experts on issues that affect the health and well-being of domestic workers, including wages, working conditions, and scheduling rights.
- d. Have broad mandates to set legally binding industry standards, regarding wages, benefits, working conditions and other issues.

By making this commitment you will demonstrate to the people of Seattle, and to the domestic workers working within this wonderful city that you have heard our voice, felt our needs, and are dedicated to making equality and modern labor standards the reality for such a large portion of the local workforce. Will you commit to work with us at the Seattle Domestic Workers Alliance to ensure a Domestic Workers' Bill of Rights and a commission to support our organizing during your first year in office?

I, Jenny Durka hereby commit to enacting the above proposal the first year I'm in office.


 (Candidate signature)

 Nanny	 Housecleaner	 Nanny
 Housecleaner	 Nanny	 Housecleaner
 Nanny	 Nanny	 Nanny
 Housecleaner	 Nanny	 Nanny
 NANNY	 HOUSECLEANER	 NANNY HOUSECLEANER