

Thank you to Chairman Phil Mendelson, the committee as a whole and those that are here to listen to everyone that has come to testify on behalf of their livelihoods. No matter what side you're on thank you for being here.

My name is Dusty Martinez and I am a DC tipped worker. I was born and raised in Maryland and about 10 years ago made the decision to leave my \$15 dollar an hour job in MD for the opportunities of the service industry here in DC..and now, DC is my home. I come from a service industry family. My mother and father met while serving tables at a local restaurant and my mother made serving her career for for the better part of 20 years while also raising 4 kids. Her mother, my nana, was a career bartender until she actually passed away doing what she loved, bartending. So you see I've been in and around the service industry my whole life and I'm proud of what I do and the industry that I'm a part of.

This decision to uproot and change a system that already guarantees us a fair minimum wage is changing the way I was brought up. My family raised me to work hard, do my best...and if I do, I could earn a good living doing what I love..just like my nana did.

I've been in this industry for 15 years. It's how I've been able to go from cleaning dishes and mopping floors to bartending and managing a place called Trade which is a LGBTQ bar here in our city.

I'm asking and pleading with you to listen to the tipped workers all over the city, those that are here in this very room and those that were unable to attend today.....to overturn 77.

I respect what democracy has done and continues to do for our city and for our local elections but on June 19th of this year democracy took a back seat. The conventions of a respectable democracy were derailed by an ill placed and misleading initiative that was written to misinform voters and the very people it purported to help.

Is our industry perfect? No. Do we have a lot of things to work on? Of course we do, what industry doesn't. But we should have a legitimate say and we should have organizations and Hollywood influencers that claim to have our best interests in mind fighting with us not against us. Our industry deserves a better path in which all our voices can be heard and 77 is not that.

I'm not asking you to say no to 77 and ignore the the issues such as wage theft or sexual harassment and let's be clear if we've learned anything from the Metoo movement sexual harassment doesn't care if you make \$15 dollars an hour or 20 million dollars a year. Its about the harasser.

I'm asking you, respectfully, to say no to 77 so we can say yes to a chance to build a better path to solving those issues without imploding a system that already provides tremendous opportunities for thousand of DC residents.

Again my name is Dusty Martinez and before finish I want to remind everyone in this room that just a few weeks ago an amazing citizen and our former president said “If you actually care about it, you have the power to make sure we seize a brighter future. But to exercise that clout, to exercise that power, you have to show up.”

We showed up and we hope you show up for the tipped workers in DC by overturning 77.

Thank you for your time!