

To the esteemed Council:

My name is Nick Schieber, currently I am a part owner of Jackie Lee's. We are a neighborhood bar and restaurant located at 116 Kennedy st nw in Ward 4. Previously I tended bar at Red Derby, also in Ward 4, for 10 years. I am a CAREER service industry professional and I am here to ask you to repeal Initiative 77.

If implemented 77 will drastically affect the operation of my business. I will be forced to increase prices and decrease staffing. Unfortunately for me, my business model is mainly focused on offering affordable prices, and more importantly on excellent and genuine customer service. We offer \$3 beers (\$2 at happy hour) and affordable food options because it is important for us to be accessible to EVERYONE in our community. Initiative 77 will likely make my business model unsustainable and I fear that if implemented I will be forced to close my business.

I would like also like to add perspective from a bartender's position, as at this point I have had more experience in that role than business owner. Bartending for me wasn't a job as many people in this dialogue have characterized it. For me Bartending was a CAREER, one that I was able to make a good living at. I was able to save up money for a down payment on a house in DC, a feat that many many people in all career fields are unable to achieve in this real estate market. I would not have been able to do that and continue to pay my mortgage on a \$15 per hour wage where tipping culture will likely be eliminated.

There is much more that can be said against Initiative 77, but for brevity's sake I will leave you with this. While it's proponents claim that this initiative will help those in the service industry, in this city with our unique climate of independently owned and operated bars and restaurants where servers and bartenders are making on average \$20-\$40 per hour and owner/operators are working within razor thin profit margins Initiative 77 will do much more harm than good. I ask you to please vote to repeal initiative 77.

Thank You.