

## **Pay regular wages to everyone to avoid sexual and racial discrimination**

Testimony on Bill 22 – 193  
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1. Not to pay the minimum wage, as is practice for other professions would mean that the woman with a small child who desperately needs the job would be at the mercy of the employer. Who will know whether she actually receives the minimum wage, or will she not dare to speak up when she does not receive the minimum wage, because she might lose her job. In an environment where the press reports about sexual harassment cases every day, we must not underestimate this risk. Since women make up a much higher percentage of the servicing staff, they suffer more than men from this form of discrimination. It should not be allowed to continue.

In Europe where minimum wages are paid, customers still give tips as they see fit – more for great service and less for average or poor service.

2. Tipping is a practice associated with slavery. The city of Washington should honor its civil rights history and be proud to pay full wages to all people of color.
3. The citizens of DC were asked to vote on the initiative and a majority was in favor of paying full wages and abolish the current practice.

To have this vote annulled by the DC Council would be absolutely inconceivable. How do we want to explain to our children that in democracies the majority votes may not carry the day?!!