

December 30, 2021

Governor Jay Inslee
Office of the Governor
PO Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504

Dear Governor Inslee:

I wanted to take this opportunity to share with you cities' support for rescinding Governor's Directive 98-01 regarding consideration of race, gender, and ethnicity in regard to hiring, contracting practices, and public education. AWC's Statement of Policy calls out cities' commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion. We are concerned that Directive 98-01 creates a disincentive and confusion for those seeking to address diversity, equity, and inclusion and encourage the Governor to rescind the Directive and replace it with one more consistent with current needs.

The review currently underway and the forthcoming changes to existing State of Washington affirmative action policies are critical to ensuring that state policy accurately reflects the findings of the Washington State Supreme Court's ruling in *Parents Involved in Community Schools v. Seattle School District No. 1* and the opinion of Washington State Attorney General Bob Ferguson.

In particular, cities support statewide policies that bolster gender and racial equity in hiring and contracting. Cities across the state are committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion and we need state policies that support those commitments. Additionally, cities recognize the importance of inclusion and equity in all of our public education institutions and encourage all efforts to insure equitable access for all learners.

We support your efforts in advancing this important work and look forward to working together towards a more equitable and inclusive State.

Sincerely,



Kent Keel
President

cc: Jamila Thomas, Chief of Staff
RaShelle Davis, Senior Policy Advisor