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**From:** V Vaj <vidulau@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 7, 2023 12:05 AM  
**To:** Pedersen, Alex; Lewis, Andrew; Dan.Strauss@seattle.go; Morales, Tammy  
**Cc:** Nelson, Sara  
**Subject:** Oppose caste based Discrimination legislation.

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**CAUTION: External Email**

Hi City Council of Seattle,

As a Hindu American, and standing against discrimination of any sort, I am aghast that the city of Seattle is taking such a step to waste Seattle tax payers money to demonize a minority that is barely 1% of US population.

As a reminder of history, that is visibly absent from today's high school curriculum let me bring you a short history lesson. The word Caste comes from the Iberian word Casta - NOT found in any Indian language. The British introduced the word caste into the census in the early 1900's in order to divide the Hindu majority of India, so that they would convert to Christianity. None of the natives Hindus at the time knew what the word caste meant and put everything from their sect, etc. into the survey - Which has now morphed into the caste system with more than 5000 castes

It is very difficult to know and prove thousands of casts , classes and sects that encompass the diversity of India. It will be almost impossible to prove with proof who belongs to which caste .There is no proof of belonging to supposed privileged class. How in this case will you protect those who have experienced caste discrimination? What will you be using a proof that is valid in a court of law ? Who gets a higher caste assigned , a Christian Dalit or a Muslim Dalit? What about those who don't know their caste or those who have parents from different castes? What caste is assigned to those who convert? Those who indeed experience such discrimination can already speak up about it under existing law protections of race, gender, national origin and ancestry. By passing this law you will be disenfranchising the very people you want to protect. Does Seattle City have the future funds (given declining real estate and sales tax) to fund a study assigning hierarchy to all castes in India. e.g., Upper class lighter skinned Muslim Syeds, Ashrafs versus lower caste dark skinned Pasmada Muslims?

B R Ambedkar , the father of the Indian Constitution who was educated at Columbia university and London school of economics also owes his success to his poor "privileged" teacher and the Royal family of Gaekwads who financed his education abroad. With the passage of the Scheduled caste Schedule Tribe Atrocities Act in India [https://legislative.gov.in/sites/default/files/A1989-33\\_2.pdf](https://legislative.gov.in/sites/default/files/A1989-33_2.pdf), Any sort of discrimination based on caste in India is ALREADY prohibited by law. Affirmative action policies in both educational institutions and government jobs of around 50-60% are already in place in India.

Equality labs, is a Hinduphobic organization funded by high caste Muslim organization. Notice that this organization only talks about Hindu Dalits and their oppression, but has zero mention of either Christian Dalits or Muslim Dalits who are denied education and even burial spaces by their upper castes running the Church or Mosque! Do they not care about them or is their aim to incite communal hatred? Thenmozhi Sounderajan, a Christian whose parents became doctors under affirmative action policies of Ambedkar and emigrated to the United States. Getting education at elite institutions such as Berkley and USC and still calling herself oppressed is a slap on the face for those who have truly been denied opportunities on account of the race, religion or birth.

Decisions must never be made blindly on the study made by one organization. The Pew Survey done is more unbiased <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2021/06/29/key-findings-about-religion-in-india/> Point #7 **including most members of lower castes – say there is *not* a lot of caste discrimination in India**

If you still choose to not believe me and take the words of Kshama Sawant for granted without doing your own research, then please do an unbiased survey only within the entire Indian community Dalits included with just one question” How much does caste mean to you ? “ The results should speak for itself .

Again, To reiterate, No one here is for Caste oppression or discrimination. Trying to single out a community is unconstitutional. Discrimination of any sort is covered under laws regarding gender, sex, national origin etc. There is no need to add an added category as caste. There was a reason the city of San Jose stepped away from passing such a resolution. Please take a cue and work on issues that truly matter to your constituents including homelessness and drug abuse. As a Hindu American citizen, the city of Seattle will be responsible for legal lawsuits for which you should not expect taxpayers to pick up the tab.

Thanks, and Best Regards,  
Vidula Vajramushti