July 14, 2017

Councilmember Claudia Balducci
Councilmember Rod Dembowski
Councilmember Reagan Dunn
Councilmember Larry Gossett

Councilmember Jeanne Kohl-Welles
Councilmember Kathy Lambert
Councilmember Joe McDermott
Councilmember Dave Upthegrove
Councilmember Pete von Reichbauer

SENT VIA EMAIL
King County Council
516 Third Ave
Room 1200
Seattle, WA 98104

Re: Veterans, Seniors & Human Services Levy

Dear Members of the King County Council:

We are directors of organizations that provide civil legal aid to low-income residents of King County, and we urge you to support an assessment level of $0.12 per $1,000 for the Veterans, Seniors & Human Services Levy.

Our organizations provide critically needed civil legal advice, assistance, and representation to low-income families and individuals. We serve a variety of low-income people, including veterans, seniors, immigrants, survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault, families with children, people experiencing homelessness, and people with disabilities. Access to civil legal assistance plays a vital role in keeping people housed, safe, healthy, and employed. Unfortunately, research shows that civil legal needs are common, widespread, and often unmet for low-income families and individuals.

If funded at $0.12 per $1,000, the levy will generate roughly $60M of funding per year. Of that, nearly $6M will be designated for programs like civil legal aid, providing critical support to vulnerable populations struggling to escape poverty, to stay or become housed, to gain access to healthcare and to live in a safe and supportive community. But, if funded at $0.10 per $1,000, our clients and your constituents will lose roughly $68M in life saving services during the life of the levy. Will you help us bridge this 2 cent gap and support a levy at $0.12?
By prioritizing funding for services for vulnerable populations – like civil legal aid - King County can take a meaningful step towards ensuring access to justice for all residents. Again, please support the rate of $0.12 per $1,000 for the Veterans, Seniors & Human Services Levy.

Thank you for your leadership and all that you do for our community.

Sincerely,

Salvador A. Mungia  
*Chair – Equal Justice Coalition*

**Gordon Thomas Honeywell**

Andrew N. Sachs  
*Chair-Elect – Equal Justice Coalition*

**Ogden Murphy Wallace PLLC**

Jorge L. Barón  
*Executive Director*  
**Northwest Immigrant Rights Project**

Mark Chattin  
*Directing Attorney*  
**Catholic Community Services – Legal Action Center**

Alex Doolittle  
*Executive Director*  
**Seattle Community Law Center**

Gerald Shepherd Kröon  
*Executive Director*  
**Eastside Legal Assistance Program**

Anne Lee  
*Executive Director*  
**TeamChild**

Gordon A. McHenry, Jr.  
*President & CEO*  
**Solid Ground**

Andrew J. Prazuch  
*Executive Director*  
**King County Bar Association**