

## **Resolution in Support of the People's Budget and Councilmember Sawant's Amendment to Make Abortion Free by Increasing the Amazon Tax (Oct. 2022)**

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### **Rationale**

When the Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade*, it launched the single biggest attack on women in most of our lifetimes, threatening LGBTQ+ people as well.

The Supreme Court has also attacked workers and people of color, through its anti-union Janus decision in 2018 and rulings that weakened the Voting Rights Act.

Laws restricting access to abortion are not only gender issues but also class and racial issues. They impact working-class women and working-class pregnant people the most because wealthy women can easily afford to fly to any state for their healthcare needs. Taking time off work and paying to travel to a state that provides abortion is not so easy for working-class women and most people of color.

Access to abortion is still legal in Washington State, but it is not free. Delays caused by anxiety over healthcare costs can limit women and pregnant people's options such as the abortion pill, which is only recommended for earlier weeks in a pregnancy.

The for-profit healthcare system and its rapacious insurance companies make healthcare expensive and even unaffordable for many working-class people. They often cause working-class people to delay getting necessary screenings and treatments, leading to more serious health complications.

Under pressure from mass protests organized by socialists, feminists, and the DSA/SA city councilmember Kshama Sawant, the city government made Seattle an "abortion sanctuary city" in August 2022. This legislation we won prevents Seattle police from enforcing out-of-state warrants related to abortions, a model which spread to other cities. However, the legislation did not make abortion free.

The [DSA national platform](#) calls for "free abortion on demand." The platform also calls for the creation of "a single-payer Medicare for All system that provides free queer sexual health and gender affirming healthcare, including ... fertility treatments, birth control, abortion care." Making abortion free in Seattle would be a step toward making healthcare free for all.

The Seattle's People's Budget campaign this year has proposed making access to abortion free, including for people fleeing persecution from any state where abortion is now punishable. **This would be funded by increasing the Jumpstart Amazon Tax on large corporations, not working people.**

### **Action Items**

**Seattle Democratic Socialists of America endorses the demand that the Seattle City Council pass a budget amendment to make access to an abortion free.**

Seattle DSA will publicize this on our email list, news blog, and social media, and encourage people to email the City Council and speak at City Council public comment in support of this budget amendment. You can email all the councilmembers at the same time by emailing [council@seattle.gov](mailto:council@seattle.gov). Copies can be sent to the mayor [here](#).

Seattle DSA will email this resolution to all City Councilmembers, the Mayor, and our media contacts.