

Argument for

Yes on I-2124 makes the long-term care payroll tax program a voluntary choice.

The long-term care program is a mandatory payroll tax funded directly from employees' paychecks. Washington workers should have the choice over whether their hard-earned money is taken to fund the program. Voting "Yes" makes the payroll tax voluntary and gives workers the choice to remain in or leave the program.

Yes on I-2124 gives everyone a choice.

There is bipartisan support to pass I-2124. Over 500,000 Washington workers have already chosen to opt-out of the program. The opt-out window is closed for the rest of us. Voting "Yes" reopens the window for everyone.

Yes on I-2124 creates long-term care flexibility.

For many families, the long-term care program will only cover a few months of care. Workers may pay more into the program than they will ever use. For married couples, the benefits can't be transferred to spouses. Part-time employees, seniors, and anyone working less than 500 hours/year could be taxed and never receive benefits. Voting "Yes" creates long-term care flexibility for everyone.

Yes on I-2124 reduces the financial burden of a payroll tax.

Inflation is already hitting our pocketbooks and forcing us to make tough financial decisions at the kitchen table. An unpopular tax with an unfair government program is not the solution. Voting "Yes" reduces financial burdens and increases our household incomes.

Rebuttal of argument against

I-2124 gives all Washington workers the choice to participate or opt-out of the state program and mandatory payroll tax. The healthcare special interest lobby should not determine what decisions are best for you and your family. Washington voters are smart enough to decide what's best for themselves and anyone with a preexisting condition can stay in the program. Vote Yes on I-2124 to give Washington workers control over their long-term healthcare.

Written by

Mark Mullet, State Senator, Democrat; **Curtis King**, State Senator, Republican; **Peter Abbarno**, State Representative, Republican

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Argument against

I-2124 takes away benefits we need due to injuries, illnesses, disabilities, or age

Experts report I-2124 will take away Washington's long-term care insurance program that covers us when we are disabled, ill, or aging. It will take away our only affordable and guaranteed coverage available because Medicare and private health insurance do not cover long-term care, which 70% of us will need at some point.

I-2124 increases costs, pushes more of us into debt

I-2124 would take away long-term care benefit payments and will leave 3.9 million working people with the broken private long-term care insurance market as their only option. Private insurance increases expensive premiums, denies claims, and discriminates against women, charging them up to 70% more than men.

I-2124 hurts women most

More than 800,000 Washingtonians, mostly women, are currently unpaid caregivers for a parent, in-law, spouse, or other loved one. I-2124 will increase pressure on women to juggle work, family, and provide unpaid care for loved ones in need, impacting their earning power.

I-2124 harms people with histories of cancer, diabetes, or high blood pressure

Under I-2124, millions of people with pre-existing conditions will be left with no care coverage options since private insurance companies regularly reject those of us with pre-existing conditions. I-2124 is opposed by Washington State Nurses Association, AARP, Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, Washington State Labor Council, Planned Parenthood Alliance Advocates, League of Women Voters.

Rebuttal of argument for

I-2124 is misleading. That's why it's strongly opposed by the WA State Nurses Association, AARP, League of Women Voters, Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, and 100 other organizations representing doctors, caregivers, older adults, women, and people with pre-existing conditions. Medicare won't pay for long term care and I-2124 will take away the only affordable, guaranteed coverage for 3.9 million Washingtonians, leaving us with expensive private long term care insurance as the only option. Vote no.

Written by

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