

I have been bartending on and off for many years. Most recently I have been working at a well-established restaurant called Arucola in Chevy Chase. On a recent Saturday night when it was pouring down rain I made \$27. Not because no one was tipping but because it was dead due to the torrential downpour outside. Why am I not being paid because it's raining? \$3.89 is not a fair wage and it doesn't make up for times when business is slow, like Jan, Feb, Aug, when it's raining, or snowing.

One of the biggest arguments against this is that raising the min wage will lead to job loss, shifts cut, restaurants closing and overall mayhem. Yet the minimum wage in DC has doubled since 2011. That means back of house workers including cooks, dishwashers, hostesses and even some managers have had steady pay increases. We have not seen a massive influx of restaurant closings, in fact quite the opposite. There has been steady restaurant growth over the last eight years, according to Jessica Sidman of the Washingtonian, "Washington's dining scene is thriving. The District's restaurant-tax revenue increased by more than \$41 million from 2011 to 2015".

There has been a lot of conversation as to why more tipped workers aren't speaking out in favor this initiative. I can give you my personal experience which is the endless harassment I have received. There has been a concerted effort to find out where I work. Per the threats people want to come in and "not tip me" or "get me fired". I have felt the wrath of other coworkers, with whom I generally have great working relationships. Only to hear them false claims about I77 being a push to stop tipping. This is untrue. The misinformation on this has been ubiquitous and unyielding. Interesting that the same coworkers fighting against this were just weeks later complaining about not being able to make ends meet with their tips. Fearmongering of the loss of livelihood has caused many to engage in vitriolic rhetoric against anyone who is perceived as a threat"

I want to address some of the arguments against Initiative 77. One of the more absurd arguments is that people will leave DC and go to MD or VA to go out to eat and drink. The