



Signature Report

July 30, 2009

Motion 13039

Proposed No. 2009-0438.1

Sponsors Patterson and Phillips

1 A MOTION urging the 111th Congress of the United States
2 to enact comprehensive health reform in 2009.

3
4 WHEREAS, King County through its agencies including the Seattle-King County
5 department of public health is charged with protecting and improving the well-being of
6 one million eight hundred thousand residents of King County, and

7 WHEREAS, in 2007, 12.6 percent of King County adults under age sixty-five
8 were uninsured and many more were underinsured, and

9 WHEREAS numerous studies show that every year our current health care system
10 delivers poorer quality care to fewer people at increasingly higher cost, and

11 WHEREAS, these conditions are being faced everyday by more currently insured
12 King County families in the form of higher premiums and deductibles, and

13 WHEREAS, these conditions increasingly threaten the both insured and the uninsured in
14 the form of compromised health, mental illness and financial destitution, and

15 WHEREAS, a health safety net in King County provides health services to people
16 who are uninsured or underinsured or who have difficulty accessing health care and is

17 comprised of county-owned and operated public health centers, private not-for-profit
18 community health centers, and many other private providers, and

19 WHEREAS, King County provided health services to over one hundred twenty
20 thousand clients through its public health centers in 2007, and

21 WHEREAS, all parts of the health safety net are financially challenged, and

22 WHEREAS, the public health operational master plan (“PHOMP”) establishes a
23 four-year goal for King County of increasing access to affordable, quality health care
24 through, in part, advocating for health care system reform, and

25 WHEREAS, the PHOMP establishes a four-year goal for King County to increase
26 the financing stability for public health through, in part, advocating for health care
27 financing reform, and

28 WHEREAS, in Resolution 08-10 the King County board of health found that
29 health care reform is necessary to build a well-functioning health care system and to
30 achieve the long-term goals of the PHOMP to increase health and well-being of the
31 people of King County and to reduce health disparities, and

32 WHEREAS, in Resolution 08-10 the board of health adopted six principles for
33 health reform designed to lead to good health outcomes for the people of King County,
34 and

35 WHEREAS, King County is an employer and self-insured provider of health
36 insurance to its thirty thousand employees and their dependents and includes in its
37 insurance coverage evidence-based reform of health care delivery and wellness and
38 prevention programs, and

39 WHEREAS, King County is a co-founder of the Puget Sound Health Alliance, a
40 partnership of employers, physicians, hospitals, patients, and health plans working
41 together to improve health care across the region, and

42 WHEREAS, King County is constitutionally obligated to provide health services
43 to inmates at its correctional facilities, and

44 WHEREAS, King County operates the King County regional support network,
45 providing services to over thirty-four thousand people experiencing mental illness in
46 2008, and

47 WHEREAS, King County owns Harborview Medical Center, a level one trauma
48 center serving a five-state region, and

49 WHEREAS, King County is a member of the National Association of Counties,
50 and

51 WHEREAS, the National Association of Counties's 2009 key legislative priorities
52 includes health system reform that restores the partnership between the federal
53 government and counties, as summarized in its adopted report Restoring the Partnership
54 for American Health: Counties in a 21st Century Health System, and

55 WHEREAS, the National Association of Counties is coordinating with counties
56 across the nation in support of national health reform;

57 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County:

58 A. The metropolitan King County council urges the 111th Congress of the United
59 States to enact comprehensive health reform legislation in 2009 that focuses on restoring
60 the partnership between the federal government and counties and achieves good health

61 outcomes by incorporating the King County board of health's six principles for health
62 reform:

63 1. Access for all. All people have access to affordable, comprehensive health
64 care services on an equitable basis. All individuals are able to access the right care in the
65 right place at the right time;

66 2. Quality health care. All health care is clinically appropriate and provided in a
67 timely, safe, and patient-centered manner;

68 3. Financially sustainable. Health care financing is designed and allocated so as
69 to provide permanent, stable, and sufficient funding for quality health care;

70 4. Responsive to patients and communities. Health services delivery systems
71 are responsive to the needs of the communities they serve. Community members
72 collaborate with health care systems to ensure the delivery of appropriate quality health
73 care services;

74 5. Focus on health promotion and disease prevention. The best investments are
75 those that prevent disease and promote good health in the most cost-effective manner;
76 and

77 6. Focus on achieving health equity. Health services delivery and financing
78 systems employ strategies, policies, and interventions aimed at achieving health equity.

79 B. The metropolitan King County council urges Congress to include in any health

Motion 13039

80 reform measure funding for a strong and stable public health infrastructure, which is
81 necessary to achieving the best health outcomes at the least cost.

82

Motion 13039 was introduced on 7/20/2009 and passed by the Metropolitan King County Council on 7/27/2009, by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Mr. Constantine, Mr. Ferguson, Ms. Hague, Mr. von Reichbauer and Mr. Gossett

No: 0

Excused: 4 - Ms. Lambert, Mr. Phillips, Ms. Patterson and Mr. Dunn

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

ATTEST:

Attachments None
