



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

January 19, 2018

Resolution 18-01

Proposed No. 18-01.2

Sponsors

1 A RESOLUTION in support of full access to healthcare,
2 particularly reproductive healthcare, for undocumented and
3 documented immigrants, and affirming the belief that
4 government must serve all residents regardless of ability to
5 pay, county of origin, gender identity, sexual orientation,
6 race or age.

7 WHEREAS, immigrants are a vital and necessary part of our society as U.S.
8 military personnel, police officers, doctors, nurses, caregivers, teachers, and in many
9 other roles contributing to the success of the United States of America and King County
10 to serve our community daily, and

11 WHEREAS, Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that
12 everyone has the right to medical care, and

13 WHEREAS, King County has reaffirmed its commitment to equity and social
14 justice by recognizing limited access to safe and affordable healthcare for immigrants as
15 a systemic problem affecting primarily people of color, transgender people and people
16 with disabilities, and

17 WHEREAS, King County owns Harborview Medical Center, whose primary
18 mission is to provide healthcare for the most vulnerable residents of King County, and
19 does so in a number of ways including prioritizing care for those who do not speak

20 English and those who are uninsured or underinsured, and

21 WHEREAS, nearly half of all immigrants in the United States, including
22 documented immigrants, lack health insurance and are less likely to receive preventative
23 care, care of chronic illness, and gender affirming treatment, and

24 WHEREAS, people without access to preventative care are more likely to require
25 hospitalization than people with access to preventative health care, and

26 WHEREAS, federal law does not currently allow funds to be used to provide
27 comprehensive health care coverage to all undocumented immigrants through Medicaid,
28 Children's Health Insurance Program, the Affordable Care Act or state-level health
29 exchanges except in cases of emergency, and

30 WHEREAS, Washington state has elected to expand health care access to certain,
31 limited classes of undocumented immigrants such as people under nineteen years old,
32 pregnant women, people seeking treatment of emergency medical conditions in a hospital
33 setting and people seeking treatment for cancer or benign life-threatening tumors, or
34 dialysis, and

35 WHEREAS, King County seeks to embrace immigrants as full members of the
36 community with a right to access culturally appropriate healthcare;

37 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Health of King
38 County:

39 A. The board of health supports the fundamental human right to access
40 healthcare, particularly reproductive healthcare, regardless of immigration status or
41 income.

42 B. The board of health affirms the belief that government must serve all residents

43 regardless of immigrant status, ability to pay, country of origin, gender identity, sexual
44 orientation, race or age.

45 C. The board of health seeks to expand coverage and lower barriers for all low-
46 income immigrants who are unable to afford private insurance and unable to access
47 Medicaid.

48 D. The board of health asks Public Health - Seattle & King County and UW
49 Medicine to work with partners to continue to close the gaps in healthcare for immigrants
50 and refugees.

51 E. The board of health calls upon state lawmakers, the United States Congress

52 and the President of the United States to close gaps in healthcare access for immigrants
53 and refugees.
54

Resolution 18-01 was introduced on and passed as amended by the Board of Health on 1/18/2018, by the following vote:

Yes: 12 - Ms. Lambert, Dr. Danielson, Ms. Bagshaw, Mr. McDermott,
Mr. Dembowski, Ms. Honda, Dr. Daniell, Ms. Birney and Ms.
Mosqueda
No: 0
Excused: 1 - Ms. Juarez

BOARD OF HEALTH
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Rod Dembowski, Chair

ATTEST:



Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Board

Attachments: None