KING COUNTY

Signature Report

December 20, 2010

Resolution 10-09

Proposed No. 10-09.2

A RESOLUTION calling on the state of Washington to
provide dedicated and long-term financing so local public
health jurisdictions can protect and improve the health of
all community residents, and preserve funding for
community health services so that Washington's most
vulnerable residents can access the health care they need.

WHEREAS, strong public health jurisdictions protect and improve the health of
all Washington state residents, and

WHEREAS, there is a continued need to protect people from communicable
diseases and other health threats, and

WHEREAS, Washington state residents are dying early from preventable chronic
diseases such as diabetes and heart disease, resulting from underlying causes including
tobacco use, poor nutrition and physical inactivity, and

WHEREAS, local and state funding for public health jurisdictions is eroding and
compromising public health's ability to respond to critical health issues, and

WHEREAS, Washington state is considering the elimination or reduction of
critically important community and clinical health programs that impact men, women and
children with the most needs, and
WHEREAS, the elimination of reduction of these community and clinical health programs will disproportionately affect people of color and immigrants and result in higher emergency health care costs, and

WHEREAS, Washington state also is considering reducing flexible funding for local health jurisdictions that would jeopardize Public Health's ability to serve local community needs, and

WHEREAS, as Washington state looks toward the 2014 implementation of health care reform and expansion of coverage, the importance of prevention and public health strategies to first control and then reduce the cost of medical care becomes increasingly crucial, and

WHEREAS, as Washington state prepares for the expansion of coverage through health care reform, coverage should be maintained for vulnerable populations

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

A. The Board of Health calls on the state of Washington to provide dedicated long-term flexible financing for local public health statewide and to prioritize prevention and wellness programs that keep people healthy and prevent health care costs;

B. The Board of Health calls on the state of Washington to preserve funding for community and clinical health programs that serve Washington's most vulnerable residents;

C. The Board of Health calls on King County, the city of Seattle and other cities in King County to pass legislation to place public health financing as a top priority on their state legislative agendas;
D. The Board of Health requests that the state legislature not reduce the Federally Qualified Health Center reimbursement rate; and

E. The Board of Health requests that the funding and legislative committee
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forward to the board a set of principles that the board and others can use in advocating for public health funding, prevention, and state or national healthcare reform.

Resolution 10-09 was introduced on and passed as amended by the Board of Health on 12/16/2010, by the following vote:

Yes: 9 - Mr. Hutchinson, Ms. Patterson, Ms. Lambert, Mr. Licata, Ms. Clark, Dr. Nicola and Ms. Manning
No: 0
Excused: 4 - Ms. Frisinger, Mr. Conlin, Dr. Danielson and Mr. McDermott

Board of Health
King County, Washington

ATTEST:

Anne Noris, Clerk of the Board

Attachments: None