KING COUNTY
Signature Report
February 25, 2013
Resolution 13-05

Proposed No. 13-05.1

Sponsors

1 A RESOLUTION calling on the Washington state
2 Legislature to help improve the health of King County and
3 Washington state residents by maintaining current levels of
4 funding for foundational public health services and by
5 securing the Medicaid expansion.
6 WHEREAS, every Washingtonian has the right to expect a strong network of
7 local public health jurisdictions and public health services, and
8 WHEREAS, prevention and public health is recognized to play an important role
9 in improving the health of Washingtonians, and
10 WHEREAS, an effective public health infrastructure is essential to decreasing the
11 burden of chronic disease and ensuring our children are healthy and ready to learn, and
12 WHEREAS, those most essential services that protect everyone - immunizations,
13 water and food safety, infectious disease prevention and services to vulnerable children
14 and families - must remain strong, and
15 WHEREAS, there is a continued need to protect people from communicable
16 diseases and other public health threats, and
17 WHEREAS, the current state budget protects the most critical funding for
18 foundational local public health services, and

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WHEREAS, this funding is an immediate, urgent need and is essential to keeping
the public health system operational, and
WHEREAS, funding and delivering foundational public health services is a
shared responsibility between the state and local governments, and
WHEREAS, many local governments have stepped up to ensure this critical
component of the broader public safety system in Washington state remains functional,
and
WHEREAS, substantial efforts are underway to ensure that the public health
successes of the 20th century are carried forward by a nimble, sustainable, responsive,
cost-effective and accountable 21st century public health system, and
WHEREAS, securing the Medicaid expansion would provide considerable health
benefit by providing health insurance, access to care and a medical home to
approximately 350,000 Washington state residents, nearly 80,000 of whom reside in King
County, and
WHEREAS, participation in the Medicaid expansion is covered one hundred
percent by the federal government for the first three years, and
WHEREAS, participation in the Medicaid expansion will provide approximately
$225 million in state general fund savings this biennium (2013-2015);
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Health of King
County:
A. The King County Board of Health calls upon the Washington state Legislature
to maintain the current level of state funding for the public health system in the 2013-
2015 biennial budget;
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B. The King County Board of Health calls upon the Washington State Legislature to secure the Medicaid Expansion in the 2013-15 biennial budget; and

C. The King County Board of Health strongly encourages other local boards of health in Washington to adopt similar resolutions.

Resolution 13-05 was introduced on and passed by the Board of Health on 2/21/2013, by the following vote:

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

BOARD OF HEALTH
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Joe McDermott, Chair

ATTEST:

Anne Noris, Clerk of the Board

Attachments: None