KING COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

RESOLUTION NO. 06-09

SUPPORTING THE FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 4410
JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH FINANCING

WHEREAS, in 2005, the State Legislature created the 4410 Joint Select Committee on
Public Health Financing to study and recommend alternative funding strategies for the
public health system; and

WHEREAS, Washington State does not have a dedicated funding source for public
health, state funding has not increased since 1999 despite inflation and other rising costs,
and Washington is 44th in the nation for per capita spending on public health; and

WHEREAS, Public Health - Seattle & King County is anticipating a potential funding
crisis and does not have the necessary flexible funding to meet public health needs; and

WHEREAS, the 4410 Joint Select Committee evaluated Washington’s public health
system and found that the system is under-funded by more than $600 million each
biennium; and

WHEREAS, the 4410 Joint Select Committee concluded that public health services are
essential to Washington’s residents and that additional flexible funding for services is
needed; and

WHEREAS, the 4410 Joint Select Committee recommends that certain core public
health functions should be consistently available throughout the state, including: stopping
communicable disease, promoting health, investing in healthy families, protecting against
environmental health risks, and helping people access care; and

WHEREAS, the 4410 Joint Select Committee recommends that the state establish a
stable, dedicated funding source for the public health system, and provide an additional
$100 million in funding during the ‘07-'09 biennium, as an initial investment; and

WHEREAS, on October 20, 2006, the King County Board of Health received a briefing
on findings and recommendations of the 4410 Joint Select Committee;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE KING COUNTY BOARD
OF HEALTH:

1. Supports the findings and recommendations of the 4410 Joint Select Committee on
Public Health Financing; and

2. Urges the Washington Legislature to provide an initial investment of $100 million to
public health during the ‘07-'09 biennium, as recommended by the 4410 Joint Select
Committee, and to allocate additional funds according to a fair distribution formula, based on public health needs; and

3. Urges the Washington Legislature to identify and establish a stable, dedicated funding source for the public health system which meets the need for $300 million annually, as identified by the 4410 Joint Select Committee; and

4. Urges the Washington Legislature to allow flexible use of funding, to address critical gaps in local public health services.

KING COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

__________________________________
Julia Patterson, Chair

__________________________________
Date of Adoption