A RESOLUTION encouraging the United States Congress
to uphold the federal government’s commitment and
investment to public health in the 2009 federal budget.

WHEREAS, public health focuses on increasing healthy years lived by preventing
and reducing disease and minimizing health threats; and
WHEREAS, as the risk of new communicable diseases and environmental health
hazards emerges, greater investments must be made to public health to protect and
improve Americans’ health; and
WHEREAS, on February 4, 2008, the President released his Fiscal Year 2009
budget request; and
WHEREAS, the budget proposes several notable cuts for programs integral to
local public health that ensure the safety and well-being of communities across the
country, such as: a $28 million reduction from CDC’s chronic disease prevention and
health promotion programs; the elimination of the CDC’s Preventive Health and Health
Services Block Grant; insufficient funding for the CDC’s Division of Nutrition, Physical
Activity & Obesity to sustain anti-obesity or coordinated school health programs in each
state; a $136 million reduction from state and local emergency preparedness capacity

building grants funding, money that was used in the past to enhance disease surveillance systems and to develop mass vaccination plans; no new funding for state and local pandemic influenza preparedness; and

WHEREAS, the King County Board of Health recognizes the fundamental role that prevention plays for local health departments to respond to the needs of their citizens; and

WHEREAS, such proposed cuts run counter to the Board of Health's commitment to protecting the health of its communities.

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

The King County Board of Health encourages the Washington Congressional Delegation and the United States Congress to:

A. Make prevention the centerpiece of our national healthcare strategy with strong support and funding.

B. Invest in public health programs that seek to find causes and cures for chronic diseases, and strengthen the ability of state and local health departments to respond to health emergencies.

C. Strive to create and support a robust public health system that provides all communities with a strong defense against a wide array of modern health hazards.
D. Reinstate vital public health programs during the development of the FY 2009
Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies appropriations bill.

Resolution was introduced on and passed by the Board of Health on 4/17/2008, by the following vote:

Yes: 10 - Mr. Ferguson, Ms. Lambert, Ms. Patterson, Mr. von Reichbauer, Mr. Dunn, Ms. Clark, Mr. Sherman, Mr. Hutchinson, Dr. Counts and Mr. Gossett
No: 0
Excused: 5 - Mr. Rasmussen, Ms. Frisinger, Dr. Nicola, Ms. Manning and Mr. Licata

BOARD OF HEALTH
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Julia Patterson, Chair

ATTEST:

Anne Noris, Clerk of the Board

Attachments None