

Seattle Human Services Coalition testimony to King County Councilmembers

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SEATTLE HUMAN SERVICES COALITION

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MEMBER COALITIONS

Advocacy & Organizing Coalition

Child Care Director's Ass'n of
Greater Seattle

Community Health Council of
Seattle-King County

Disability Services Committee

King County Children, Youth &
Families Coalition

King County Coalition Against
Domestic Violence

King County Senior Services
Coalition

Meals Partnership Coalition

NonProfit Anti-Racism Coalition

Seattle Food Committee

Seattle King County Coalition
on Homelessness

Seattle-King County
Employment Council

Sexual Assault Services

My name is Steve Daschle. I'm the Executive Director of Southwest Youth and Family Services and tonight I'm speaking on behalf of the 250 agencies and programs who are members of the Seattle Human Services Coalition.

Every day your constituents come to human service providers across the county for help: people without homes, people who have survived domestic violence and sexual assault, people who need food for their family, seniors, people with disabilities, as well as young children and youth at risk. We help those we have the resources to help, but the county's general fund **does not have** adequate resources to make the investments needed to improve health outcomes for all and invest in our youth, **not even** in those services that the Regional Policy Committee of the King County Council has determined **are a regional responsibility**.

We know what is needed. The "social determinants of health" are the missing link in the U.S. health care system and their underfunding correlates with high cost medical care and racially disproportionate, poor health outcomes across King County.

We **also** know that investing early in our youth builds stronger communities **and saves money** in the long run.

We urge you, our elected leaders, to support the rising call for a dedicated, adequate revenue stream for Best Starts to fund urgently needed regional community health and human services across the county that will **build stronger communities**.

Thank you.