



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

November 18, 2016

Resolution 16-09

Proposed No. 16-09.1

Sponsors

1 A RESOLUTION calling on the Washington state
2 legislature to recognize that public health is essential and to
3 provide the critical down payment to support core services
4 in all communities and allow public health to rebuild its
5 statewide system with added efficiency.

6 WHEREAS, the public health system in Washington provides the foundation for
7 the larger health-care framework, working to prevent illness and disease while supporting
8 the work of community partners, and

9 WHEREAS, tracking, responding to, and preventing costly food and water
10 contamination and disease outbreaks is essential to protecting the public's health, and

11 WHEREAS, state and local public health officials, together with local leaders,
12 have identified an agreed upon set of core public health services that should be available
13 for every Washingtonian, and

14 WHEREAS, after a century of increasing life expectancies, today these gains are
15 threatened by new and more complex diseases, continued tobacco use and preventable
16 chronic diseases, putting today's children at risk of becoming the first generation to have
17 shorter life expectancies than its parents, and

18 WHEREAS, the public's well-being is also threatened by public health's inability
19 to meet its basic responsibility to provide these core services due to changes in its
20 funding structure, complex and new diseases, and growing populations; and

21 WHEREAS, the motor vehicle excise tax was repealed in 2000, leaving the public
22 health system without an adequate and sustainable funding source, and

23 WHEREAS, Washington state's population has grown by more than one million
24 residents since 2000, and is expected to grow by another two million residents by 2025,
25 and

26 WHEREAS, Washington state spends less on public health protection, at \$38.08
27 per person, than other states such as Idaho, at \$54.35 per person, and Wyoming, at \$89.75
28 per person, and

29 WHEREAS, it now takes Public Health - Seattle & King County forty percent
30 longer to investigate, and stop, outbreaks of foodborne illness, such as E. Coli, due to
31 growing complexity of the diseases and cuts to the program, and

32 WHEREAS, Public Health - Seattle & King County cannot prevent disease
33 outbreaks in hospitals because it does not have the necessary resources, and

34 WHEREAS, Public Health - Seattle & King County no longer has the resources
35 needed to identify and track latent cases of tuberculosis, despite having an estimated one
36 hundred thousand people in the county with latent tuberculosis, and

37 WHEREAS, over the last four years, state and local public health leaders have
38 developed a plan to modernize the state's public health system, ensuring core services are
39 available everywhere and designating others that can be effectively and efficiently shared
40 between health departments, and

41 WHEREAS, without securing ongoing, stable, and dedicated funding for core
42 public health services, our communities are left unprepared for emergencies, such as the
43 State Route 530 slide, and vulnerable to the spread of communicable diseases, such as
44 Zika and whooping cough, and

45 WHEREAS, rebuilding and refocusing our public health services means we can
46 better monitor and coordinate emergency responses, by keeping our families and
47 communities safe, reducing costs for taxpayers and protecting our local economy;

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

50 The Board of Health calls on the Washington state Legislature to recognize that
51 public health is essential and provide the critical down payment to support core services

52 in all communities and allow public health to rebuild its statewide system with added
53 efficiency.

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Resolution 16-09 was introduced on and passed by the Board of Health on 11/17/2016,
by the following vote:

Yes: 10 - Dr. Danielson, Ms. Wales, Mr. Dembowski, Dr. Daniell,
Ms. Kohl-Welles, Ms. Gonzalez, Ms. Juarez and Ms. Kloba

No: 0

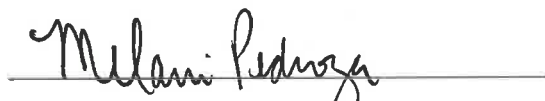
Excused: 4 - Ms. Lambert, Mr. Baker, Ms. Bagshaw, Mr. McDermott

BOARD OF HEALTH
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Rod Dembowski, Chair

ATTEST:



Melani Pedroza, Acting Clerk of the Board

Attachments: None