



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

Motion 16834

Proposed No. 2025-0149.2

Sponsors Zahilay, Mosqueda and Quinn

1 A MOTION expressing King County council's opposition
2 to proposed federal Medicaid cuts and affirming support for
3 care workers, healthcare systems, and residents who rely on
4 Apple Health.

5 WHEREAS, Medicaid, known as Apple Health in Washington state, provides
6 essential healthcare coverage to over 1.8 million Washingtonians, including more than
7 440,000 residents of King County who rely on it for primary, behavioral, and long-term
8 care, and

9 WHEREAS, proposed federal budget reductions threaten to significantly decrease
10 Medicaid funding, which could severely impact access to critical health services for low-
11 income families, seniors, individuals with disabilities, and other vulnerable populations in
12 King County, and

13 WHEREAS, cuts to Medicaid would have significant ripple effects across King
14 County's healthcare infrastructure, including public, nonprofit, and for-profit hospital
15 systems, potentially forcing care reductions, employee layoffs, and service closures, that
16 would harm both patients and workers, and

17 WHEREAS, care workers, including home care aides, long-term care providers,
18 nursing home staff, and hospital workers, are essential to the health and well-being of our
19 residents, and their work is largely funded through Medicaid reimbursements, and

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20 WHEREAS, these care workers are represented by several labor organizations,
 21 including SEIU 775, SEIU Healthcare 1199NW, UFCW3000 and the Washington
 22 Federation of State Employees, which advocate for the wages, benefits, and working
 23 conditions, of those on the frontlines of care, and

24 WHEREAS, King County is committed to advancing health equity, preserving
 25 healthcare access, and supporting the dignity and economic security of both care
 26 recipients and the diverse health workforce that serves them;

27 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County:

28 A. The King County council formally opposes any federal actions that would
 29 reduce Medicaid funding and urges Congress to maintain or increase current funding
 30 levels to ensure continued access to essential healthcare services.

31 B. The council affirms its support for the care workforce, including home care
 32 aides, nursing assistants, behavioral health workers, and hospital staff, whose roles are
 33 central to our health system and funded in large part through Medicaid.

34 C. The council recognizes the essential contributions of healthcare institutions,
 35 including nonprofit and for-profit hospital systems, long-term care facilities, and
 36 community clinics, which would be seriously impacted by any reduction in Medicaid
 37 funding.

38 D. The council acknowledges the advocacy and leadership of labor organizations
 39 such as SEIU 775, SEIU Healthcare 1199NW, UFCW3000 and Washington Federation
 40 of State Employees, which represent a wide range of workers who would be affected by
 41 federal funding changes.

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42 E. The council commits to working with federal, state, labor, and provider
43 partners, to protect and strengthen Medicaid and ensure that King County residents
44 continue to receive the healthcare and supports they need to thrive.

45 F. The clerk of the council is directed to transmit a copy of this motion to the
46 Washington state Congressional delegation, the Governor of Washington, the

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- 47 Washington state Health Care Authority, relevant healthcare labor organizations, and
48 hospital associations.

Motion 16834 was introduced on 5/27/2025 and passed by the Metropolitan King County Council on 6/17/2025, by the following vote:

Yes: 9 - Balducci, Barón, Dembowski, Dunn, Mosqueda, Perry, Quinn, von Reichbauer and Zahilay

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Signed by:

Girmay Zahilay

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Girmay Zahilay, Chair

ATTEST:

DocuSigned by:

Melani Hay

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Melani Hay, Clerk of the Council

Attachments: None

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Girmay Zahilay

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Council Chair

Security Level: Email, Account Authentication (None)

Signature

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Girmay Zahilay

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Melani Hay

melani.hay@kingcounty.gov

Clerk of the Council

King County Council

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Melani Hay

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Rhonda Lewis

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Chief of Staff KCC District 2

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Envelope Updated	Security Checked	6/18/2025 11:36:31 AM
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