



## KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

### Signature Report

#### Resolution 25-08

##### Proposed No. 25-08.1

##### Sponsors

1 A RESOLUTION advancing the Board of Health's  
2 commitment to actively supporting immigrant and refugee  
3 health access and requesting exploration of King County  
4 sponsorship towards that commitment.

5 WHEREAS, health insurance facilitates access to care and is associated with  
6 lower death rates, better health outcomes, and improved productivity according to the  
7 American Hospital Association citing extensive research, and

8 WHEREAS, Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that  
9 everyone has the right to medical care, and

10 WHEREAS, King County has reaffirmed its commitment to equity and social  
11 justice by recognizing limited access to safe and affordable healthcare for immigrants as  
12 a systemic problem affecting primarily people of color, in part when it recognized racism  
13 as a public health crisis, and

14 WHEREAS, many categories of immigrants have been excluded from federally  
15 funded health coverage; in 2023, approximately forty-two thousand noncitizens in King  
16 County were uninsured, and

17 WHEREAS, in 2019, public health - Seattle & King County released a study at  
18 the request of the King County council demonstrating significant disparities among  
19 uninsured noncitizens and exploring options for county-based health coverage, and

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20 WHEREAS, the state of Washington has since acted to fill some coverage gaps  
21 for immigrants, but access and affordability challenges persist. In 2023, the U.S. Centers  
22 for Medicare and Medicaid Services approved Washington's 1332 waiver allowing  
23 individuals without a federally recognized immigration status to purchase qualified health  
24 and dental plans without federal subsidies through Washington's online marketplace for  
25 qualified health and dental plans. To account for the inability of people who are without  
26 a federally recognized immigration status to access federal premium tax credits and cost-  
27 sharing assistance, the legislature provided Cascade Care Savings state premium  
28 assistance subsidies up to two hundred fifty dollars per month for Washingtonians  
29 ineligible for federal subsidies with incomes up to two hundred fifty percent of the  
30 federal poverty level. However, fewer than one in nine of those who shopped for 2024  
31 coverage were able to enroll in coverage and fewer than one in six in 2025 were able to  
32 enroll because the premiums were still unaffordable, according to the Washington state  
33 Health Benefit Exchange, and

34 WHEREAS, Washington's Apple Health Expansion for adults with income up to  
35 one hundred thirty-eight percent of the federal poverty level who are not eligible for  
36 Medicaid or federal premium tax credits due to immigration status launched in July  
37 2024, but the Legislature appropriated only enough funding to serve fewer than twelve  
38 thousand Washingtonians. The vast majority of space for that funding filled in less than  
39 two business days and, as of September 2025, over twenty-two thousand Washingtonians  
40 have been denied coverage due to limited funds, according to the Washington state  
41 Health Care Authority, and

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42 WHEREAS, the Washington state Health Benefit Exchange partners with more  
43 than sixteen organizations across the state to help make coverage affordable by offsetting  
44 health care costs for members of their communities, including: eleven tribes; government  
45 entities sponsoring Compact of Free Association Islanders and people living with HIV;  
46 three nonprofit, private sponsors, which are Project Access NW Pierce County Project  
47 Access, and Evergreen Health Insurance Program; and public health - Seattle & King  
48 County, and

49 WHEREAS, H.R. 1 - 119th Congress (2025-2026), signed into law this July,  
50 included a provision stripping federal premium tax credits and cost-sharing assistance  
51 from lawfully present immigrants for coverage starting January 2026. The Washington  
52 state Health Benefit Exchange estimates approximately ten thousand Washingtonians will  
53 lose access to affordable health coverage due to this change, and

54 WHEREAS in October 2026, HR 1 - 119th Congress (2025-2026) is expected to  
55 create additional coverage losses when the Washington state Health Care Authority  
56 estimates as many as thirty thousand lawfully present immigrants including refugees,  
57 asylees, trafficking survivors, and others will lose federal funds for Medicaid and the  
58 Children's Health Insurance Program, as well as in January of 2027 when approximately  
59 fifteen thousand lawfully present immigrants including refugees, asylees, trafficking  
60 survivors and others will lose access to federal subsidies for health insurance through  
61 Healthplanfinder, and

62 WHEREAS, the federal administration has funded and unleashed a campaign  
63 persecuting immigrants, militarizing immigration enforcement, and eroding core  
64 democratic values of equity and due process, with demonstrated harm to the health and

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65 well-being of immigrants and communities across King County and Washington state,  
66 and

67 WHEREAS, the Board of Health affirmed in Resolution 18-01, which passed in  
68 January 2018, that the government must serve all residents regardless of immigrant  
69 status, country of origin, race, age, or other identities, and

70 WHEREAS, King County seeks to welcome immigrants and refugees as full  
71 members of the community with a right to access culturally appropriate and affordable  
72 healthcare;

73 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF HEALTH OF  
74 KING COUNTY:

75 A. The Board of Health supports the fundamental human right to access  
76 healthcare.

77 B. The Board of Health seeks to expand coverage and lower health care access  
78 barriers for low-income immigrants in King County who are unable to afford private  
79 insurance and unable to access Medicaid and federal subsidies.

80 C. The Board of Health asks the King County council to seek out and pursue  
81 cross-jurisdictional funding strategies to maximize the impact of available funding,  
82 including exploring a county sponsorship program to leverage state subsidies and  
83 mitigate impending coverage losses.

84 D. The Board of Health further encourages all jurisdictions within King County  
85 to share "know-your-rights" information with immigrant communities, including  
86 supporting residents in developing safety plans when accessing health care services

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- 87 within King County, and engage in state policy decisions for uninsured and soon-to-be  
88 uninsured Washingtonians.


Resolution 25-08 was introduced on and passed by the Board of Health on 10/16/2025,  
by the following vote:

Yes: 10 - Archiopoli, Barón, Chew, Daniels, de Castro, Lam, Loo,  
Mohammed, Mosqueda and de Michele  
Excused: 7 - Dunn, Gudgel, Hollingsworth, Kettle, Nelson, Rakes  
and Williams

KING COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Signed by:  
  
ADD2DCD9E4B3430...  
Teresa Mosqueda, Chair

ATTEST:

DocuSigned by:  
  
8DE1BB375AD3422...

Melani Hay, Clerk of the Board

**Attachments:** None

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teresa.mosqueda@kingcounty.gov

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King County Council

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