

Proposed No. 2009-0438.1

KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse 516 Third Avenue Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

July 28, 2009

Motion 13039

Sponsors Patterson and Phillips

1 A MOTION urging the 111th Congress of the United States 2 to enact comprehensive health reform in 2009. 3 4 WHEREAS, King County through its agencies including the Seattle-King County 5 department of public health is charged with protecting and improving the well-being of 6 one million eight hundred thousand residents of King County, and 7 WHEREAS, in 2007, 12.6 percent of King County adults under age sixty-five 8 were uninsured and many more were underinsured, and 9 WHEREAS numerous studies show that every year our current health care system 10 delivers poorer quality care to fewer people at increasingly higher cost, and 11 WHEREAS, these conditions are being faced everyday by more currently insured 12 King County families in the form of higher premiums and deductibles, and 13 WHEREAS, these conditions increasingly threaten the both insured and the uninsured in the form of compromised health, mental illness and financial destitution, and 14 15 WHEREAS, a health safety net in King County provides health services to people who are uninsured or underinsured or who have difficultly accessing health care and is 16

17	comprised of county-owned and operated public health centers, private not-for-profit
18	community health centers, and many other private providers, and
19	WHEREAS, King County provided health services to over one hundred twenty
20	thousand clients through its public health centers in 2007, and
21	WHEREAS, all parts of the health safety net are financially challenged, and
22	WHEREAS, the public health operational master plan ("PHOMP") establishes a
23	four-year goal for King County of increasing access to affordable, quality health care
24	through, in part, advocating for health care system reform, and
25	WHEREAS, the PHOMP establishes a four-year goal for King County to increase
26	the financing stability for public health through, in part, advocating for health care
27	financing reform, and
28	WHEREAS, in Resolution 08-10 the King County board of health found that
29	health care reform is necessary to build a well-functioning health care system and to
30	achieve the long-term goals of the PHOMP to increase health and well-being of the
31	people of King County and to reduce health disparities, and
32	WHEREAS, in Resolution 08-10 the board of health adopted six principles for
33	health reform designed to lead to good health outcomes for the people of King County,
34	and
35	WHEREAS, King County is an employer and self-insured provider of health
36	insurance to its thirty thousand employees and their dependents and includes in its
37	insurance coverage evidence-based reform of health care delivery and wellness and
38	prevention programs, and

39	WHEREAS, King County is a co-founder of the Puget Sound Health Alliance, a
40	partnership of employers, physicians, hospitals, patients, and health plans working
41	together to improve health care across the region, and
42	WHEREAS, King County is constitutionally obligated to provide health services
43	to inmates at its correctional facilities, and
44	WHEREAS, King County operates the King County regional support network,
45	providing services to over thirty-four thousand people experiencing mental illness in
46	2008, and
47	WHEREAS, King County owns Harborview Medical Center, a level one trauma
48	center serving a five-state region, and
49	WHEREAS, King County is a member of the National Association of Counties,
50	and
51	WHEREAS, the National Association of Counties's 2009 key legislative priorities
52	includes health system reform that restores the partnership between the federal
53	government and counties, as summarized in it adopted report Restoring the Partnership
54	for American Health: Counties in a 21st Century Health System, and
55	WHEREAS, the National Association of Counties is coordinating with counties
56	across the nation in support of national health reform;
57	NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County:
58	A. The metropolitan King County council urges the 111th Congress of the United
59	States to enact comprehensive health reform legislation in 2009 that focuses on restoring
60	the partnership between the federal government and counties and achieves good health

61	outcomes by incorporating the King County board of health's six principles for health
62	reform:
63	1. Access for all. All people have access to affordable, comprehensive health
64	care services on an equitable basis. All individuals are able to access the right care in the
65	right place at the right time;
66	2. Quality health care. All health care is clinically appropriate and provided in a
67	timely, safe, and patient-centered manner;
68	3. Financially sustainable. Health care financing is designed and allocated so as
69	to provide permanent, stable, and sufficient funding for quality health care;
70	4. Responsive to patients and communities. Health services delivery systems
71	are responsive to the needs of the communities they serve. Community members
72	collaborate with health care systems to ensure the delivery of appropriate quality health
73	care services;
74	5. Focus on health promotion and disease prevention. The best investments are
75	those that prevent disease and promote good health in the most cost-effective manner;
76	and
77	6. Focus on achieving health equity. Health services delivery and financing
78	systems employ strategies, policies, and interventions aimed at achieving health equity.
79	B. The metropolitan King County council urges Congress to include in any health
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reform measure funding for a strong and stable public health infrastructure, which is 81 necessary to achieving the best health outcomes at the least cost. 82

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Motion 13039 was introduced on 7/20/2009 and passed by the Metropolitan King County Council on 7/27/2009, by the following vote:

> Yes: 5 - Mr. Constantine, Mr. Ferguson, Ms. Hague, Mr. von Reichbauer and Mr. Gossett

No: 0

Excused: 4 - Ms. Lambert, Mr. Phillips, Ms. Patterson and Mr. Dunn

KING COUNTY COUNCIL KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Dow Constantine, Chair

ATTEST:

Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

Attachments None