



Signature Report

Resolution 20-05

Proposed No. 20-05.1

Sponsors

1 A RESOLUTION encouraging the Washington state
2 Legislature to support funding for foundational public
3 health services.

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

7 WHEREAS, tracking, responding to and preventing costly disease outbreaks is
8 essential to protecting the public's health, and

9 WHEREAS, state, local and tribal public health officials, together with local
10 leaders, have identified an agreed-upon set of foundational public health services that
11 should be available for every Washingtonian, and

12 WHEREAS, no state or local public health department should be without
13 foundational public health components and programs which include communicable
14 disease control, chronic disease and injury prevention, environmental public health,
15 maternal, child and family health, and access to and linkage with clinical care; and

16 WHEREAS, after a century of increasing life expectancies, these gains are
17 threatened by new and more complex diseases and emerging threats, putting today's
18 children at risk of becoming the first generation to have shorter life expectancies than
19 their parents, and

20 WHEREAS, public health's ability to address social and community conditions
21 could improve health, life expectancy and quality of life, while also reducing related
22 health care costs and productivity losses, and

23 WHEREAS, the public's well-being is also threatened by public health's inability
24 to meet its basic responsibility to provide those foundational services due to changes in
25 its funding structure, complex and new diseases and growing populations, and

26 WHEREAS, the motor vehicle excise tax was repealed in 2000, leaving the public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

28 WHEREAS, the Washington state Legislature invested \$22 million for
29 foundational public health services in the 2019-2021 biennium, and

30 WHEREAS, Public Health - Seattle & King County received nearly \$6 million of
31 that investment, and

32 WHEREAS, due to that funding, Public Health - Seattle & King County: notified
33 partners infected with sexually transmitted diseases; increased partnerships with health
34 care systems to implement best practices that keep patients safe; and expanded
35 communicable disease response;

36 WHEREAS, Public Health - Seattle & King County's estimated gap for fully
37 funding Foundational Public Health Services is more than \$25 million, and

38 WHEREAS, the \$22 million relied on vapor tax revenue that are not being
39 collected at the rate forecasted, and

40 WHEREAS, without securing ongoing, stable and dedicated funding for
41 foundational public health services, our communities are vulnerable to the spread of
42 healthcare-associated infections and other communicable diseases like hepatitis C,

43 tuberculosis and sexually transmitted diseases, and

44 WHEREAS, investing in communities to improve the health and well-being of
45 people could also revitalize and improve economic opportunity, enhancing prosperity in
46 the community and for its residents and businesses;

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

49 The Board of Health calls on the Washington state Legislature to allocate
50 sustainable and significant funding necessary to support foundational public health

51 services in all communities and allow public health to continue rebuilding its statewide
52 system with added efficiency.
53

Resolution 20-05 was introduced on and passed by the Board of Health on 1/16/2020,
by the following vote:

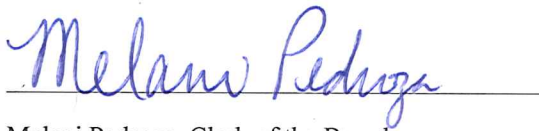
Yes: 12 - Ms. Lambert, Mr. McDermott, Dr. Delecki, Ms. Honda, Dr.
Daniell, Ms. Kohl-Welles, Ms. Marx, Mr. Lewis and Ms. Morales
Excused: 2 - Mr. Baker and Ms. Mosqueda

KING COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Jeanne Kohl-Welles, Chair

ATTEST:



Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Board

Attachments: None