

# KING COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

## RESOLUTION NO. 06-09

### **SUPPORTING THE FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 4410 JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH FINANCING**

**WHEREAS**, in 2005, the State Legislature created the 4410 Joint Select Committee on Public Health Financing to study and recommend alternative funding strategies for the public health system; and

**WHEREAS**, Washington State does not have a dedicated funding source for public health, state funding has not increased since 1999 despite inflation and other rising costs, and Washington is 44<sup>th</sup> in the nation for per capita spending on public health; and

**WHEREAS**, Public Health - Seattle & King County is anticipating a potential funding crisis and does not have the necessary flexible funding to meet public health needs; and

**WHEREAS**, the 4410 Joint Select Committee evaluated Washington's public health system and found that the system is under-funded by more than \$600 million each biennium; and

**WHEREAS**, the 4410 Joint Select Committee concluded that public health services are essential to Washington's residents and that additional flexible funding for services is needed; and

**WHEREAS**, the 4410 Joint Select Committee recommends that certain core public health functions should be consistently available throughout the state, including: stopping communicable disease, promoting health, investing in healthy families, protecting against environmental health risks, and helping people access care; and

**WHEREAS**, the 4410 Joint Select Committee recommends that the state establish a stable, dedicated funding source for the public health system, and provide an additional \$100 million in funding during the '07-'09 biennium, as an initial investment; and

**WHEREAS**, on October 20, 2006, the King County Board of Health received a briefing on findings and recommendations of the 4410 Joint Select Committee;

### **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE KING COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH:**

1. Supports the findings and recommendations of the 4410 Joint Select Committee on Public Health Financing; and
2. Urges the Washington Legislature to provide an initial investment of \$100 million to public health during the '07-'09 biennium, as recommended by the 4410 Joint Select

Committee, and to allocate additional funds according to a fair distribution formula, based on public health needs; and

3. Urges the Washington Legislature to identify and establish a stable, dedicated funding source for the public health system which meets the need for \$300 million annually, as identified by the 4410 Joint Select Committee; and

4. Urges the Washington Legislature to allow flexible use of funding, to address critical gaps in local public health services.

**KING COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH**

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Julia Patterson, Chair

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Date of Adoption