

A RESOLUTION supporting the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act

WHEREAS, here in King County, over one hundred fifty thousand residents, more than twelve percent of the population, do not have health insurance, and

WHEREAS, the lack of health insurance is a major barrier for King County residents in obtaining needed and preventative health care, and

WHEREAS, the inability to access affordable health care in a timely manner leads to uninsured individuals delaying and deferring care until an ailment becomes an emergency, which is more costly and leads to worse health outcomes, and

WHEREAS, through Public Health – Seattle & King County, King County provides a wide variety of health related services, including health care for low-income residents, with the goal of protecting and improving the health and well-being of all people in King County, and

WHEREAS, the federal Patient Protection and Care Act will benefit King County residents by:

- providing access to insurance for uninsured individuals with preexisting conditions;
- prohibiting health insurance companies from imposing preexisting condition exclusions on children's coverage;
- extending dependent coverage to young people up to age twenty-six; strengthening community health centers; and
- providing tax credits to small businesses that contribute to provide health insurance to affordable, comprehensive health care services on an equitable basis so that all individuals can access the right care in the right place at the right time, and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

The King County Democrats recognize that the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act will directly benefit Washington State residents that lack health care insurance or are underinsured. The King County Democrats support the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act as advancing the goal of all people having access to affordable, comprehensive health care services on an equitable basis. And, the King County Democrats support Washington state Governor Chris Gregoire's position that the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act is in the interests of the state of Washington, adamantly oppose Washington state Attorney General Rob McKenna's participation in a lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, and demand immediate termination of any and all funding of such participation (including but not limited to time spent on, preparing for, or reviewing written, oral, or digital communications or documents of any type – other than for the purpose of withdrawal of or from such lawsuit.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be forwarded to King County Council, King County Executive, the Governor, and the Attorney General.

Passed by the King County Democrats Central Committee April 27, 2010

Proposed by: King County Council Member, Larry Phillips.

Resolution is based on a King County Council motion sponsored by Bob Ferguson, Larry Phillips and Larry Gossett, members.

Sponsored by KCDCC Chair, Susan Sheary, for submittal on 4/27/2010