

## **Calling on the Washington State Legislature to Reaffirm That Public Health is Essential and to Maintain Foundational Public Health Services Funding**

**WHEREAS**, a responsive and viable governmental public health system is essential for healthy and economically vital communities across Washington; and

**WHEREAS**, protecting the public's health across the state is a fundamental responsibility of the state, which is accomplished through the state's governmental public health system. This system comprises the state department of health, the state board of health, local health jurisdictions, sovereign tribal nations, and Indian health programs; and

**WHEREAS**, Foundational Public Health Services (FPHS) are core services that the governmental public health system is responsible for providing consistently and uniformly in every community in Washington; and

**WHEREAS**, like public safety, public utilities, and other public infrastructure, there is a foundational level of public health services that must exist everywhere for services to work anywhere; and

**WHEREAS**, the governmental public health system in Washington provides the foundation for the larger health care framework, working to provide science-based guidance to healthcare providers and families, prevent illness and disease while supporting and working alongside community partners; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2019, the Legislature passed HB 1947, which codified the governmental public health system, the Foundational Public Health Services framework, and support to rebuild and transform public health in Washington State; and

Kitsap Public Health Board Resolution 2026-03

February 3, 2026

Page 2

**WHEREAS**, the Legislature has established the Foundational Public Health Services Account, and invested \$300 million in the 2026-2027 biennium to the governmental public health system to implement Foundational Public Health Services; and

**WHEREAS**, FPHS makes up approximately 23% of the District's 2026 budget, filling gaps for mandated and essential public health services supporting work not covered by contracts, grants, fees, or other revenue sources; and

**WHEREAS**, these local investments respond to a suite of community priorities, emerging needs, and health risks, including communicable disease control, chronic disease and injury prevention, environmental public health, maternal child and family health, access to and linkage with clinical care, communications, equity, emergency preparedness, health assessment and surveillance, policy development, among other functions; and

**WHEREAS**, these FPHS supported services deliver reliable, timely, and accessible health information so that our community can make informed healthy choices for themselves and their families; and

**WHEREAS**, monitoring, investigating, and preventing costly food and water contamination, disease outbreaks, and exposure to health hazards, while partnering with community to co-create solutions to address structural inequities is essential to protecting the public's health; and

**WHEREAS**, without maintaining ongoing, stable, and dedicated funding for core public health services, our communities are left unprepared for public health emergencies, vulnerable to the spread of communicable diseases like measles, and unprotected from health concerns such as contaminated drinking water; and

**WHEREAS**, supporting core public health services today is critical to keeping communities healthy, strong, and resilient to threats and emergencies for future generations.

Kitsap Public Health Board Resolution 2026-03

February 3, 2026

Page 3

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Kitsap Public Health Board calls on the Washington State Legislature to take the following steps to support core services in all communities and allow public health to continue to rebuild its statewide system with added efficiency:

1. Recognize that public health is essential;
2. Maintain Foundational Public Health Services funding; and
3. Fix vapor tax errors that support the Foundational Public Health Services account.

**APPROVED:** February 3, 2026

  
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Drayton Jackson  
Member, Consumer of Public Health

  
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Dr. Amity Marriott  
Member, Public Health/Health Care

  
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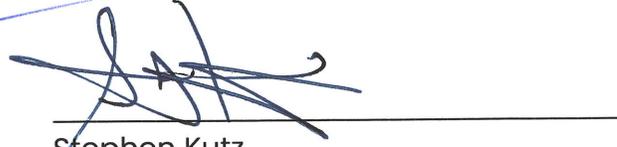
Rob Putaansuu  
Mayor, City of Port Orchard

  
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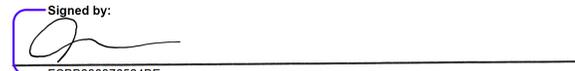
Dr. Tara Sell  
Member, Other Community Stakeholder

Signed by:  
  
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Dr. Jolene Sullivan  
Member, Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe

  
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Stephen Kutz  
Member, Suquamish Tribe

Signed by:  
  
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Ashley Mathews  
Councilperson, City of Bainbridge Island

  
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Christine Rolfes  
Kitsap County Board of Commissioners

  
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Ed Stern  
Mayor, City of Poulsbo

  
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Greg Wheeler  
Mayor, City of Bremerton