
RESOLUTION 2026-01

A RESOLUTION URGING THE WASHINGTON STATE LEGISLATURE TO MAINTAIN FUNDING FOR FOUNDATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES (FPHS)

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 is comprised of 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, public health works with residents, businesses, and community partners to ensure thriving communities, by preventing illness, monitoring health trends, protecting against health threats, and ensuring access to essential services; and

WHEREAS, Washington's public health system safeguards residents by tracking diseases, analyzing health data, ensuring safe food and drinking water, informing the community, as well as preparing and responding to emerging health threats; and

WHEREAS, over the last decade, state, local, and tribal public health leaders have worked together to modernize and strengthen the public health system, ensuring core services are available statewide and efficiently coordinated among agencies; and

WHEREAS, Grant County faces significant public health challenges, including rising vulnerable demographics, devastating effects of opioid addiction, challenges with access to care for families with children that have special healthcare needs, unacceptable rates of youth suicides, and sexually transmitted infections, requiring sustained investment in prevention and intervention efforts; 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

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, the Governor has proposed a reduction to the FPHS account of \$29 million in the 2026 Supplemental Budget; and

WHEREAS, FPHS state funding accounts for 42% of the Grant County Health District's operating budget; and



WHEREAS, proposed state budget cuts to FPHS funding would delay outbreak investigations, hinder emergency preparedness, and weaken essential public health services, leading to higher long-term costs and negative health outcomes; and

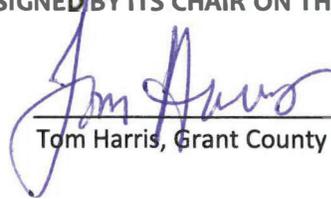
WHEREAS, reductions in public health funding disproportionately affect rural communities, like Grant County, by limiting access to essential services like infectious disease control, prevention services for high rates of chronic disease, and fails to recognize greater socioeconomic barriers that impact health outcomes in rural communities; and

WHEREAS, continued investment in foundational public health services ensures communities remain resilient, prepared for emergencies, and able to address emerging health concerns efficiently and effectively.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Grant County Board of Health:

Urges the Washington State Legislature to maintain and protect FPHS funding and fix vapor tax errors that support the Foundational Public Health Services Account, recognizing its critical role in safeguarding the health and well-being of all Grant County residents and Washingtonians.

PASSED BY THE GRANT COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH AND SIGNED BY ITS CHAIR ON THIS 11TH DAY OF FEBRUARY 2026.



Tom Harris, Grant County Board of Health Chair

ATTEST:



Theresa Adkinson, Administrator