

Union Update

OPEIU

Local



For Local 8 Members at King County

October 18, 2024

King County Coalition Update



October 17, 2024

Dear King County Councilmembers,

We are writing on behalf of a coalition of unions that represent nearly 1,000 Seattle-King County Public Health (SKCPH) care providers, along with community partners, who have long advocated for sustainable funding to preserve the operation of public health clinics in King County. As a coalition, the priority has been to lead efforts to sustain these programs and services for the communities they serve, which could be left without care should they not continue.

Our Public Health clinics provide essential services for our County's most vulnerable residents. Of the patients at SKCPH, 67% of patients are BIPOC, 40% speak another language other than English, 20% of patients are experiencing homelessness, and 23% are uninsured. When other mainstream healthcare systems are unable to meet the needs of our community, Public Health clinics of Seattle-King County provide a vital, accessible safety net. While there is opportunity to make improvements and increase accessibility even more -- *and that is a discussion that our care providers are eager to engage in* -- it is crucial that we continue to support these vital Public Health services, which serve as a lifeline for so many in our community.

We commend Executive Constantine's current budget proposal, which allocates a portion of the Harborview levy authority to ensure the continued operation of these clinics. This funding represents a critical investment in the health and future well-being of King County residents. While we stand in solidarity with others calling for increased funding, we cannot in good conscience support any proposal that does not ensure long-term support for Seattle-King County Public Health and the essential services they provide.

We urge you to find a path forward that funds consistent, reliable, and ongoing sustainable care for 80,000 county residents who depend on Seattle-King County Public Health. Together, we can protect these vital services and ensure that everyone in our community has access to the care they need.

In solidarity,

The Save Public Health Coalition



The content of the letter above is reproduced below:

“October 17, 2024

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Questions? Contact your Union Representative, Tara Powell, at tara@opeiu8.org or 800-600-2433 ext. 106.



OFFICE AND PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES INTERNATIONAL UNION LOCAL 8

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