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March 23, 1989
0382D/MC:ssj:clt

Introduced by:
Proposed No.: 89-249

MOTION NO. 7492

A MOTION urging the state to provide additional funding to Harborview Medical Center.

WHEREAS, Harborview Medical Center is a public health facility managed by the University of Washington and owned by King County, and

WHEREAS, Harborview Medical Center serves as the region's only level I trauma center, treating the most critically ill and injured persons from all over the state, and

WHEREAS, as a preeminent burn center, Harborview Medical Center provides a critical service for the most severe burn injuries, and

WHEREAS, Harborview Medical Center provides care to acutely mentally ill patients with additional medical complications who would otherwise be admitted at Western State Hospital, and

WHEREAS, Harborview Medical Center serves as a principal site for training health professionals in the treatment of trauma, burns, and diseases such as AIDS, and

WHEREAS, a large number of low-income and uninsured patients use the medical center for health care services, and

WHEREAS, as a result, Harborview Medical Center's financial health is directly dependent upon state-controlled payments for Medicaid and the medically indigent program, and

WHEREAS, King County taxpayers have provided over \$100 million in capital subsidies to Harborview Medical Center, including \$75 million in 1987 to build a new trauma center and to replace substandard nursing units at Harborview, and

WHEREAS, the state of Washington has over the years cut back funding for the medically indigent program, placing Harborview Medical Center's operations at risk, and

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1 WHEREAS, in response to these cutbacks, Harborview Medical
2 Center has enacted emergency measures reducing expenditures, such
3 as reducing personnel and imposing a hiring freeze, and

4 WHEREAS, continued cutbacks by the state have forced
5 Harborview Medical Center to consider eliminating critical
6 services, such as treating trauma and burn patients from outside
7 King County and accepting involuntary treatment patients, and

8 WHEREAS, the state should at least pay the costs for those
9 patients who are the state's responsibility, and

10 WHEREAS, Harborview Medical Center has requested from the
11 state \$5.4 million in the current fiscal year and a minimum of
12 \$15 million in the 1989-1991 biennial budget;

13 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County:

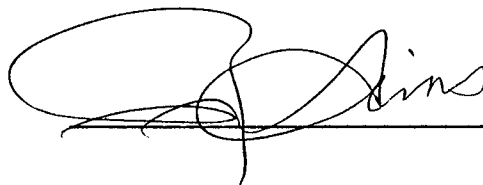
14 A. The King County council strongly supports Harborview
15 Medical Center's funding request.

16 B. The state of Washington is urged to provide the necessary
17 funding so that Harborview Medical Center can continue operating
18 all of its critical programs.

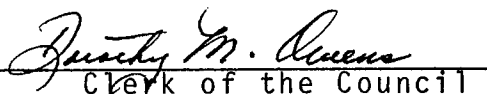
19 C. The state of Washington is urged to develop a realistic
20 and permanent solution to Harborview Medical Center's financial
21 crisis.

22 PASSED THIS 27th day of March, 1989

23
24 KING COUNTY COUNCIL
25 KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

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28 ATTEST:

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30 Clerk of the Council