

## Resolution 06-03

### Family Planning and Public Health

**WHEREAS** Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) included family planning in its published list of the 'Ten Great Public Health Achievements -- United States, 1900-1999.'<sup>1</sup>

**WHEREAS** publicly funded family planning services enable millions of Americans to decide whether and when to have children.<sup>2</sup>

**WHEREAS** publicly supported family planning services help women avoid 1.3 million unintended pregnancies each year.<sup>2</sup>

**WHEREAS** an estimated 52.8% of all pregnancies in Washington State were unintended from 1999 -2001 and an estimated 37.5% of all births in Washington State were unintended in the same time period.<sup>4</sup>

**WHEREAS** women in the United States with incomes below the federal poverty level in 2001 were four times as likely to have an unintended pregnancy and three times as likely to have an abortion as women with incomes above 200% of the poverty level.<sup>5</sup>

**WHEREAS** every \$1 of public money spent on family planning services, saves \$3 in Medicaid costs for pregnancy-related and newborn care.<sup>3</sup>

**WHEREAS** use of emergency contraception in the United States has the potential to reduce the unintended pregnancy rate by at least one-half.<sup>6</sup>

**WHEREAS** contraceptives, including emergency contraception, reduce the need for abortion services.

**WHEREAS** Washington State has seen a reduction in teen pregnancy since family planning (including contraceptive and abstinence information) accessibility has increased.

**WHEREAS** funding for family planning is still only reaching an estimated 51% of Washington State women living in poverty who need these services.<sup>6</sup>

**WHEREAS** planning and spacing of pregnancies improves health and economic outcomes of families.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that WSPHA recognizes that family planning access is a public health goal that has broad capabilities to improve the health and well being of persons living and working in Washington State, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that WSPHA supports policy that would increase funding and access to culturally appropriate family planning services for all persons living and working in Washington State regardless of their ability to pay.

**Signed by: Rick Porso, WSPHA President 2005-2006**

**Submitting Author: (Must be a WSPHA Member and complete contact information must be provided for acceptance to review.)**

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