



Snohomish County Council

NEWS RELEASE

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Councilmember Gossett Proposes Prescription Program for County Residents

Too many families today have trouble paying their medical bills. Snohomish County Councilmember Dave Gossett thinks he may have found a way to help.

“What if we could provide, free of charge, a drug discount card to every resident of Snohomish County,” said Gossett. “That would be a giant help to lots of people, especially those with no insurance.”

Gossett noted that the National Association of Counties (NACO) is beginning a pilot program this fall to do just that. The plan is to make the program available to all member counties in fall of 2005. As a NACO member, Snohomish County could join.

“The program would allow the county to give the cards to anyone in the county,” said Gossett. “NACO estimates that the discounts on drugs will be between 14% and 35%, with even larger discounts when ordering by mail.”

Gossett has requested that the County Council’s Finance Committee, chaired by Councilmember Kirke Sievers, review the issue. He has drafted a motion declaring the county’s intent to take part and requesting Executive Aaron Reardon to work with the Council to implement the prescription program as early as possible next year.

“Increasing health care costs is a major concern for people,” said Gossett. “This may prove to be a great opportunity to help our citizens in tough economic times.”