

**University of Washington
Board of Regents
Resolution of Appreciation to
William J. Van Ness, Jr.**

WHEREAS, UW Medicine, through its patient care, research, and physician education and training, contributes in so many ways to the health and well-being of our community and the world; and

WHEREAS, the University of Washington Medical Center is rated the ninth best hospital in the nation, and various School of Medicine departments rank consistently among the best, including a primary care program ranked number one in the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, the quality of UW Medicine's academic programs and patient care must be matched by the quality of its support systems and programs, including the integrity and accountability of its compliance program; and

WHEREAS, UW Medicine underwent a profoundly sobering investigation of its Medicare billing practices and compliance efforts, resulting in a settlement of \$35 million with the federal government; and

WHEREAS, it was critically important for the University to understand the causes that led to the billing problems and to undertake substantial reforms to ensure such problems will not recur; and

WHEREAS, the UW Medical Center Board appointed a review committee chaired by William J. Van Ness, Jr. to examine what had transpired in UW Medicine, to highlight lessons learned, to identify issues and problems requiring further attention, and to recommend further improvements to the compliance effort; and

WHEREAS, the report issued by the Review Committee, "Achieving Excellence in Compliance," and presented to the Board of Regents at its July 21, 2005, meeting is a superb, comprehensive, and thorough analysis of the factors that contributed to the problems UW Medicine encountered, and includes an excellent set of recommendations for building an exemplary compliance program that can be a model for academic medical centers and hospitals everywhere;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: that the members of the Board of Regents express to William J. Van Ness, Jr., their gratitude on behalf of all those associated with UW Medicine and the entire University community for his leadership of this most important task and for a job well done, that Mr. Van Ness convey to the Review Committee Vice Chair Orin Smith and to the rest of the members of the committee our thanks for their dedication and hard work, and that this resolution be spread upon the minutes of the Board as a permanent record of the Board's sincere appreciation.