

1 [URGING SAN FRANCISCO'S CALIFORNIA AND FEDERAL LEGISLATORS TO
2 CONTINUE EFFORTS TO HALT MEDICAID AND MEDICARE REDUCTIONS THAT
3 NEGATIVELY IMPACT SAFETY NET PROVIDERS, TO INCREASE REIMBURSEMENTS
4 FOR MEDICAID SERVICES AND TO INCREASE ELIGIBILITY FOR PUBLICLY FUNDED
5 HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAMS]

6
7 WHEREAS, Even during California's booming economic time, many
8 residents do not have ready access to health care services and
9 providers are facing reduced government funding for services; and

10 WHEREAS, San Francisco's health care system is strained by
11 reductions in federal funds for health care services, increasing
12 numbers of uninsured residents, growing costs of providing treatment
13 and closure of health facilities; and

14 WHEREAS, The health care safety net (financed through direct and
15 indirect subsidies) has served as the default system for caring for
16 many of the nation's uninsured and vulnerable populations; and

17 WHEREAS, California's per patient Medicaid expenditures are the
18 fourth lowest in the country; and

19 WHEREAS, The Balanced Budget Act of 1997 achieved federal
20 savings by reducing Medicaid, Medicare, graduate medical education
21 and outpatient cost-based reimbursement to providers and went beyond
22 the cuts needed to balance the federal budget; and

23 WHEREAS, California hospitals will lose approximately \$5.2
24 billion in Medicare over a five year period (from 1998 - 2003) and
25 the Health Care Financing Administration is proposing to issue

1 regulations which would result in further reductions in Medicaid
2 reimbursement; and

3 WHEREAS, San Francisco General Hospital provides services to all
4 San Franciscans irrespective of insurance status, income and
5 immigration status or other social factors and provides these
6 services free of charge or at nominal charge according to an income-
7 based sliding scale billing policy; and

8 WHEREAS, 50% of the patients at San Francisco General Hospital
9 are uninsured, (40% of inpatients and 60% of outpatients); and

10 WHEREAS, In the absence of state and federal revenues supporting
11 safety net providers, the City and County faces the prospect of
12 critical reductions in health care services provided by the
13 Department of Public Health and the exposure to a much greater burden
14 of health care costs for uninsured residents; and

15 WHEREAS, Opportunities to address these issues include: (1)
16 halting the funding cuts in the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 and (2)
17 increasing health care coverage in publicly funded programs; and

18 WHEREAS, Federal Senate Bill 2308 (Medicaid Safety Net Hospital
19 Act of the 2000) and Senate Bill 2299 (Medicaid Disproportionate
20 Share Hospital Preservation Act of 2000), both co-authored by Senator
21 Dianne Feinstein, would freeze or decrease reductions to the Medicaid
22 program thereby mitigating the significant financial burden on safety
23 net providers; and

24 WHEREAS, The federal Medi-Kids Health Insurance Act of 2000
25 would automatically enroll every child at birth into a new,
comprehensive federal safety net health insurance program beginning

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1 in 2002 and would provide benefits similar to those currently
2 available to children under Medicaid; and

3 WHEREAS, The Governor's 2000-01 budget increases some Medi-Cal
4 providers rates (an average of 15% for physicians, 7% for dentists,
5 10% for community clinics and 39% for California Children's Services)
6 to ensure continued access to services; now, therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco urges San
8 Francisco's California and federal legislators to continue efforts to
9 halt Medicaid and Medicare reductions that negatively impact safety
10 net providers, to increase reimbursements for Medicaid services and
11 to increase eligibility for publicly funded health insurance
12 programs; and, be it

13 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco
14 continues to support federal Senate bills S. 2308 and S. 2299, and
15 urges the United States Congress to pass and the President to sign
16 these crucial bills, and be it

17 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco
18 supports and urges passage of the federal Medi-Kids Health Insurance
19 Act of 2000; and be it

20 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco
21 urges Congress to reform the Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospital
22 payment program to maintain overall funding at the 1998 level (with
23 increases indexed to rates of overall health care inflation) and
24 ensure that funds are more effectively targeted to hospitals serving
25 the largest numbers of poor and uninsured patients; and be it

1 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco
2 urges the state and federal governments to broaden Medi-Cal
3 eligibility criteria and enhance outreach efforts to enroll more
4 uninsured Californians in Medi-Cal, Healthy Families, and Access to
5 Infant and Mothers (AIM); and be it

6 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco
7 urges the state of California to continue to increase basic Medi-Cal
8 per diem payment rates to providers and hospitals, with increases
9 potentially targeted to hospitals serving significant numbers of
10 Medi-Cal and uninsured patients; and be it

11 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco
12 urges the state of California to develop a program to fund at the
13 County level health care services provided to indigent and uninsured
14 persons.



City and County of San Francisco

City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

Tails

Resolution

File Number: 001275

Date Passed:

Resolution urging the San Francisco's California and federal legislators to continue efforts to halt Medicaid and Medicare reductions that negatively impact safety net providers, to increase reimbursements for Medicaid services and to increase eligibility for publicly funded health insurance programs.

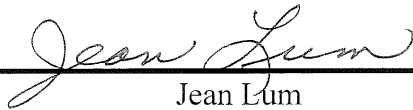
July 17, 2000 Board of Supervisors — ADOPTED

Ayes: 10 - Ammiano, Becerril, Bierman, Brown, Kaufman, Leno, Newsom, Teng,
Yaki, Yee

Absent: 1 - Katz

File No. 001275


I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on July 17, 2000 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.



Jean Lum
Acting Clerk of the Board

JUL 28 2000

Date Approved



Mayor Willie L. Brown Jr. 11