[URGING 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]

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco urges 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; and, be it

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

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

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

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

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

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

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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
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.