

1 Prescription Drug Benefits

2 [SUPPORTING EFFORTS TO EXPAND THE SCOPE OF BENEFITS UNDER MEDICARE TO
3 INCLUDE AN OUTPATIENT PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFIT FOR MEDICARE
4 BENEFICIARIES AND URGING THE U.S. CONGRESS AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE
5 UNITED STATES TO ENACT A PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFIT MEETING THE
6 REQUIREMENTS OF H.R. 4770]

7 WHEREAS, Today, pharmaceutical therapies are a primary form of
8 medical care and often substitute for more costly therapies like
9 hospitalization and surgery; and,

10 WHEREAS, The growing importance and increased use of
11 prescription drugs disproportionately impacts the elderly, who
12 account for 13% of the nation's population but over one third of the
13 nation's total drug expenditures; and,

14 WHEREAS, The costs of prescription drugs are rising and are
15 projected to increase 165% over the next decade; and,

16 WHEREAS, Spending for prescription drugs has increased much
17 faster than spending for other types of health care; and,

18 WHEREAS, Medicare provides health insurance to people age 65 and
19 over; and,

20 WHEREAS, Medicare does not generally cover prescription drugs on
21 an outpatient basis because when Medicare was first enacted in 1965,
22 pharmaceutical therapies were not as commonly available as they are
23 now; and,

24 WHEREAS, The lack of drug coverage can expose Medicare
25 beneficiaries to high out-of-pocket spending that, in turn, may

1 result in under-utilization of prescribed medication and adverse
2 health outcomes; and,

3 WHEREAS, Our seniors should have the wherewithal to live with
4 dignity and in economic health and should not have to choose between
5 filling their prescriptions and spending money on other necessities;
6 and,

7 WHEREAS, An outpatient prescription drug benefit should be part
8 of the Medicare program to ensure that beneficiaries do not go
9 without medications or bear exorbitant out-of-pocket costs; and

10 WHEREAS, Such prescription drug benefit should provide for
11 discounts on all prescription purchases and be offered under
12 reasonably affordable premium and co-pay arrangements with
13 catastrophic out-of-pocket protections; and,

14 WHEREAS, Support for providing drug coverage to seniors is
15 broad, with over three-fourths (76%) of the public favoring
16 guaranteeing prescription drug coverage to everyone on Medicare, even
17 if it means more government spending to pay for it and sixty-two
18 percent (62%) prefer expanding Medicare to pay directly for part of
19 prescription medicine costs for people age 65 and over; and,

20 WHEREAS, H.R. 4770, the Medicare Guaranteed and Defined RX
21 Benefit and Health Provider Relief Act, sponsored by Representative
22 Stark and supported by San Francisco Representatives Pelosi and
23 Lantos, successfully provides for a comprehensive Medicare
24 prescription drug benefit for all seniors; now, therefore be it
25

1 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors supports
2 efforts to expand the scope of benefits under Medicare to include an
3 outpatient prescription drug benefit; and, be it

4 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and
5 County of San Francisco hereby urges the U.S. Congress and the
6 President of the United States to enact a prescription drug benefit
7 meeting the requirements of H.R. 4770.

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City and County of San Francisco

City Hall
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Tails Resolution

File Number: 001816

Date Passed:

Resolution supporting efforts to expand the scope of benefits under Medicare to include an outpatient prescription drug benefit for Medicare beneficiaries and urging the U.S. Congress and the President of the United States to enact a prescription drug benefit meeting the requirements of H.R. 4770.

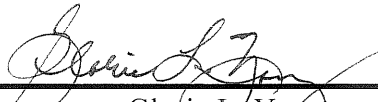
October 23, 2000 Board of Supervisors — ADOPTED

Ayes: 9 - Ammiano, Becerril, Bierman, Brown, Katz, Leno, Newsom, Teng, Yaki

Absent: 2 - Kaufman, Yee

File No. 001816

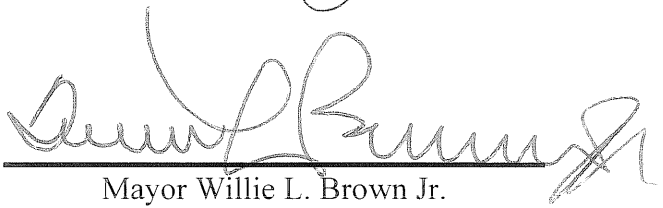
I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on October 23, 2000 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.



Gloria L. Young
Clerk of the Board



Date Approved



Mayor Willie L. Brown Jr.