

1 [Importation of prescription medications from Canada by or for members of the City's Health
2 Service System and citizens of San Francisco.]

3 **Resolution urging the City's Health Service System to explore the feasibility and cost**
4 **effectiveness of the importation of prescription medications from Canada by or for**
5 **members of the City's Health Service System and citizens of the City and County of**
6 **San Francisco.**

7
8 WHEREAS, The costs of prescription medications manufactured or sold in the United
9 States have risen dramatically for the past several years and are expected to continue to rise
10 in the next year; and

11 WHEREAS, The members of the Health Service System of the City and County of San
12 Francisco include, but are not limited to, active and retired City employees, and their
13 dependents; and

14 WHEREAS, These costs have and will impose an undue burden upon members of the
15 Health Service System of the City and County of San Francisco; and

16 WHEREAS, San Francisco's population is aging and many of the City's senior citizens
17 live on limited or fixed incomes; and

18 WHEREAS, San Francisco's senior citizens must often chose between buying food,
19 paying for heat, or buying prescription medications; and

20 WHEREAS, San Francisco's senior citizens sometimes reduce their prescription
21 medication dosages as a way of making ends meet and in the process imperil their health;
22 and

23 WHEREAS, many working poor households in San Francisco do not have access to
24 any health insurance whatsoever and must pay out of pocket for prescription medications; and
25

1 WHEREAS, many San Franciscans regardless of age have limited prescription
2 medication coverage that requires them to pay for significant portions of the high cost of
3 prescription medications; and

4 WHEREAS, The costs of prescription medications manufactured or sold in Canada are
5 dramatically lower than those manufactured or sold in the United States; and

6 WHEREAS, The prescription medications obtained from Canada appear to be as safe
7 and effective as those currently manufactured or sold in the United States; and

8 WHEREAS, Importing prescription medications from Canada to San Francisco may
9 help to reduce the health care costs of members of the City's Health Service System, and
10 citizens of the City; now, therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, That the policy of the City and County of San Francisco is to pursue the
12 importation of Canadian prescription medications for members of the City's Health Service
13 System, and citizens of the City; and be it

14 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City's Health Service System is urged to explore the
15 feasibility and cost effectiveness of the importation of prescription medications from Canada
16 by or for members of the City's Health Service System; and be it

17 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Department of Public Health shall work with
18 community organizations to explore the best service delivery mechanism for the importation of
19 Canadian prescription medications for the City's senior community and the City's general
20 citizenry; and be it

21 FURTHER RESOLVED, That any cost savings achieved by the City due to importation
22 of Canadian prescription medications shall be expended to support City senior centers, the
23 Community Health Network and any other City programs that will help disseminate
24 information about safe and cost effective prescription medications.
25



City and County of San Francisco

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Tails Resolution

File Number: 032041

Date Passed:

Resolution urging the City's Health Service System to explore the feasibility and cost effectiveness of the importation of prescription medications from Canada by or for members of the City's Health Service System and citizens of the City and County of San Francisco.

January 6, 2004 Board of Supervisors — ADOPTED

Ayes: 10 - Ammiano, Dufty, Gonzalez, Hall, Ma, Maxwell, McGoldrick, Newsom,
Peskin, Sandoval
Excused: 1 - Daly

File No. 032041

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on January 6, 2004 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

JAN 16 2004

Date Approved


Gloria L. Young
Clerk of the Board