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

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, many working poor households in San Francisco do not have access to any health insurance whatsoever and must pay out of pocket for prescription medications; and
WHEREAS, many San Franciscans regardless of age have limited prescription medication coverage that requires them to pay for significant portions of the high cost of prescription medications; and

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

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

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

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

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City's Health Service System is urged 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 be it

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

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

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.

Gloria L. Young
Clerk of the Board

JAN 16 2004

Date Approved