Resolution expressing support for expanding health care coverage for uninsured San Francisco residents and helping to ensure quality coverage for low and moderate income workers and opposing the repeal of Senate Bill 2 and urging an affirmative vote on the November 2\textsuperscript{nd}, 2004 referendum.

WHEREAS, On September 12\textsuperscript{th} of 2003, both houses of the California State Legislature approved a conference report on Senate Bill 2; and

WHEREAS, On October 5\textsuperscript{th}, 2003, Governor Gray Davis officially signed Senate Bill 2 into law; and,

WHEREAS, The California Health Interview Survey (CHIS) estimates the number of uninsured in San Francisco as 92,000, and of those fully 51\% (nearly 44,000) are working full time with another 7,000 working part-time; and,

WHEREAS, SB 2 extends health coverage to up to a million now-uninsured Californians, and provides security to the millions more that now get coverage through their employer, but are afraid of rising health care costs or losing their coverage altogether; and,

WHEREAS, Starting in 2006, the bill gradually builds upon our current health system, by which over 18 million Californians get health coverage through their employer by giving employers with 50 or more workers the choice of buying coverage for those workers directly or paying into a statewide buying pool that would work to get employers the lowest rates possible and by requiring employers with 200 or more workers to provide family coverage for its workers; and,

WHEREAS, SB 2 stipulates that workers of employers of 50 or more would be guaranteed basic health benefits, comparable to the standard HMO package that includes...
preventative care, hospital care, and prescription drugs, and paying no more than 20% of the monthly premiums—or for low-income workers, not more than 5% of their income; and,

WHEREAS, Under SB 2, those who are insured would keep their existing coverage, removing the most potent argument against reform—that they would lose benefits under any reform or new system; and,

WHEREAS, SB 2 has been endorsed by a broad coalition of organizations including AARP California, the American College of Surgeons, the American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California, California ACORN, CA Alliance for Retired Americans, the California Black Health Network, the California Federation of Teachers, the California Labor Federation, the California Medical Association, the California Teachers Association, Gray Panthers California, Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees International Union, Latino Coalition for a Healthy California, National Council of Raza, the San Francisco Organizing Project, United Auto Workers, Region 5, United Nurses Associations of California/Union of Health Care Professionals, among others; and,

WHEREAS, While many employers stayed neutral during debate over SB 2 in the State Assembly and Senate, major opposition has come from large employers in the retail and fast-food industries, which are more likely to not provide health benefits, including companies like Wal-Mart and McDonald’s; and,

WHEREAS, Opponents successfully placed a measure on the November 2, 2004 ballot to repeal SB 2; now, therefore, be it,

RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco supports expanding health care coverage for uninsured San Franciscans and helping to ensure quality coverage for low and moderate income workers; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board opposes the repeal of SB 2 and urges an affirmative vote on the November 2nd, 2004 referendum.

SUPERVISORS PESKIN, DALY, AMISSAJOY GONZALES, MAXWELL, DUFFY, MA
Resolution expressing support for expanding health care coverage for uninsured San Franciscans and helping to ensure quality coverage for low and moderate income workers and opposing the repeal of Senate Bill 2 and urging an affirmative vote on the November 2nd, 2004 referendum.

June 22, 2004  Board of Supervisors — ADOPTED

Ayes: 10 - Alioto-Pier, Ammiano, Daly, Dufty, Gonzalez, Hall, Maxwell, McGoldrick, Peskin, Sandoval

Excused: 1 - Ma

File No. 040880

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on June 22, 2004 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Gloria L. Young
Clerk of the Board

JUL 01 2004

Date Approved

Mayor Gavin Newsom