[Supporting Assembly Bill 1743 (Ting) - Removing the Number of Syringes a Pharmacist Can Sell to an Adult Without a Prescription]

Resolution urging the California State Legislature to pass Assembly Bill 1743, authored by Assemblymember Phil Ting, to remove the number of syringes a pharmacist can to sell to an adult without a prescription and remove the sunset date in current law.

WHEREAS, Sharing used syringes remains the most common mode of transmission of hepatitis C, and the second most common cause of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and hepatitis B transmission; and

WHEREAS, These diseases are costly and potentially deadly, with the average lifetime cost to treat just one case of HIV exceeding $600,000; and

WHEREAS, The California Department of Public Health and the Federal Centers for Disease Control & Prevention have found that allowing adults to purchase sterile syringes from pharmacists without prescriptions is a key component to the prevention and control of these diseases; and

WHEREAS, Studies consistently find that the transmission of disease is reduced in areas that allow adults to purchase syringes over the counter than areas that mandate prescriptions; and

WHEREAS, According to a study published in the Journal of the American Public Health Association, in a national comparison of 60 cities that did not require a prescription for the sale of syringes and 36 that did require a prescription, there was no statistically significant difference in the prevalence of injection drug use between the two groups of cities; and

WHEREAS, The rate of HIV among injection drug users was twice as high in the cities that prohibited sale of syringes (13.8 percent vs. 6.7 percent); and

Supervisor Mar
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
WHEREAS, Current law, which will sunset on January 1, 2015, provides pharmacists the discretion to sell up to 30 syringes to an adult without a prescription; and

WHEREAS, Assembly Bill 1743 (AB 1743) will remove the number of syringes a pharmacist has the discretion to sell to an adult without a prescription and will remove the sunset date in current law, making over the counter syringe sales a permanent part of California's public health strategy; and

WHEREAS, Under AB 1743, pharmacists would be required to meet specific requirements for the provision of information and materials, including letting purchasers know how to safely dispose of syringes, how to access drug treatment, and options for testing and treating HIV and hepatitis; and

WHEREAS, AB 1743 is supported by the Drug Policy Alliance and the San Francisco AIDS Foundation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco hereby urges the California State Legislature to pass Assembly Bill 1743; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors forward a copy of this resolution to California Assemblymember Phil Ting with a request he take all action necessary to achieve the objectives of this resolution.
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March 25, 2014 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED

Ayes: 8 - Avalos, Breed, Chiu, Cohen, Farrell, Mar, Tang and Yee
Absent: 3 - Campos, Kim and Wiener

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 3/25/2014 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution, not being signed by the Mayor within the time limit as set forth in Section 3.103 of the Charter, or time waived pursuant to Board Rule 2.14.2, became effective without his approval in accordance with the provision of said Section 3.103 of the Charter or Board Rule 2.14.2.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board