Resolution urging support of the expanded use of Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis as a tool to end the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

WHEREAS, The number of newly acquired HIV infections among gay and bisexual men, women, communities of color and transgender individuals continues to rise despite an overall decrease in the rate of new infections in San Francisco; and

WHEREAS, Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) involves the use of an antiretroviral medication by those who are HIV-negative to prevent the acquisition of HIV infection; and

WHEREAS, Multi-center clinical trials have shown that correct usage of PrEP can be up to 99% effective in preventing HIV infection; and

WHEREAS, In 2012, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved Truvada, for pre-exposure prophylaxis in combination with safer sex practices to reduce the risk of sexually-acquired HIV infection in adults at high risk; and

WHEREAS, In May 2014, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) issued guidelines for the use of PrEP and asserted that this evidence based prevention method could have significant impact on controlling the U.S. HIV epidemic; and

WHEREAS, In July 2014, the World Health Organization (WHO) issued guidelines seeking to address the needs of many of those most at risk of HIV and strongly recommended PrEP as an HIV prevention choice within a comprehensive HIV prevention package because of the high quality of evidence supporting its usage; and

WHEREAS, In the last five years, 2,066 San Franciscans have been newly diagnosed with HIV; and
WHEREAS, The San Francisco Department of Public Health and the city’s HIV agencies agree that PrEP could be instrumental in further reducing new cases of HIV; and

WHEREAS, Fewer than 3,000 people were prescribed Truvada for PrEP nationwide in 2012 and 2013 and fewer than 1,000 of these prescriptions were in San Francisco; and

WHEREAS, PrEP use is stigmatized despite the fact that individuals at risk for HIV have a right to choose this evidence-based prevention intervention; and

WHEREAS, Increased knowledge among people at risk for HIV infection, as well as PrEP training for clinicians, are needed to support the successful implementation of PrEP; and

WHEREAS, Some individuals who seek to use PrEP to avoid HIV infection experience significant problems with accessing it affordably through health insurance providers; and

WHEREAS, Successful implementation of PrEP in San Francisco requires effective collaboration between stakeholders including the Department of Public Health, HIV testing programs, public and private clinicians, HIV prevention agencies, support agencies, the manufacturer of Truvada, and health insurance providers; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco supports the expanded use of PrEP as an important means for ending the HIV/AIDS epidemic; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Department of Public Health is urged to submit by December 1, 2014, a plan developed in conjunction with the HIV testing programs, public and private clinicians, HIV prevention agencies, support agencies, the manufacturer of Truvada, and health insurance providers to achieve an increase in the use of PrEP that addresses the educational and affordability issues.
Resolution urging support of the expanded use of Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis as a tool to end the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

September 23, 2014 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED

Ayes: 11 - Avalos, Breed, Campos, Chiu, Cohen, Farrell, Kim, Mar, Tang, Wiener and Yee

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 9/23/2014 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