[Urging the United States Congress Not to Repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act]

Resolution urging the United States Congress not to repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act without a clearly-defined replacement plan, and to maintain the current funding structure of the Medicaid program.

WHEREAS, San Francisco has long led the way in compassionate care and has been committed to ensuring affordable access to health care for all, and nearly 250,000 San Franciscans rely on the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and the Medicaid program for their coverage; and

WHEREAS, San Francisco is internationally renowned for pioneering standards for HIV/ AIDS prevention, care and treatment; and

WHEREAS, With bipartisan support in Congress, we have made significant strides in responding to the HIV epidemic in the United States and abroad; and

WHEREAS, We now have highly effective prevention and treatment options that allow us to envision ending the AIDS epidemic; and

WHEREAS, However, doing so requires that individuals at risk for HIV and those living with HIV have affordable, reliable access to comprehensive health coverage; and

WHEREAS, The ACA provided many people living with HIV with health insurance coverage for the first time; and

WHEREAS, Prior to the ACA’s health reforms, they, and many others with chronic conditions, were denied private health insurance or could not afford the high-cost coverage available to them; and

WHEREAS, Even those living on very low incomes often faced the cruel irony that they would not qualify for Medicaid coverage until they became disabled by AIDS; and

Supervisors Sheehy; Tang, Fewer
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
WHEREAS, The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) desires to receive State grant funds, and is willing to cooperate in fulfilling Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) obligations under the State grant requirements; and

WHEREAS, Through a citywide collaborative effort that includes partnerships across City agencies, academia, and community providers, San Francisco is aiming for Getting to Zero; and

WHEREAS, Through a focus on prevention, rapid linkage to and retention in treatment, we aspire to reach the goals of zero new infections, zero deaths, and zero stigma for people living with HIV/AIDS; and

WHEREAS, Efforts to quickly do away with the ACA, without simultaneously providing meaningful alternatives, will leave millions of Americans uninsured or underinsured; and

WHEREAS, People with HIV and countless others cannot afford to be stripped of their health insurance coverage; and

WHEREAS, Their health, and in many cases their lives, and our nation’s public health depend on preserving and building on the ACA reforms that have worked by providing access to essential, life-saving health care services and prescription drugs; and

WHEREAS, We strongly urge Congress to take into account the following reform principles before repealing the ACA or modifying key health programs; these principles will help to ensure that people living with HIV/ AIDS can continue the quality of life that they deserve and have been afforded over the last eight years:

- **Prevent any disruptions in health coverage**, as the failure to do so will have negative health consequences for up to 30 million individuals whose health coverage is at risk in addition to serious public health and economic consequences for all Americans. Do not modify current law without having meaningful, adequately funded alternatives available. It is critical to have a plan for seamless continuation of coverage
in place before announcing repeal or modifying the law to avoid negative repercussions in the Insurance market.

- **Maintain critical reforms that address unfair or discriminatory insurer practices**, including laws that prohibit insurers from denying coverage based on pre-existing conditions or charging higher rates based on health status or gender, or excluding coverage of treatments for specific conditions. These consumer protections should not be contingent on continuous coverage requirements.

- **Maintain the current funding structure, including the entitlement, of the Medicaid program, which is an essential part of our safety net.** Congress should continue to support states in responding to their most vulnerable residents' health needs. States must have flexibility to expand their programs during increased demand for Medicaid coverage in tough economic times, unanticipated outbreaks or disasters, and when implementing health innovations, such as the recent curative breakthrough treatments for Hepatitis C.

- **Ensure access to a minimum essential benefits package** that includes the comprehensive range of services and treatments that people at risk for and those living with HIV need to stay healthy, including prescription drug benefits, substance use and mental health treatment, and preventive services without cost-sharing.

- **Keep health coverage, health services and prescription drugs affordable** by ensuring adequate, up front premium and cost sharing assistance for lower income individuals to afford health plans that provide comprehensive coverage. Low income individuals need assistance at the time the bills are due or they will forgo medically necessary treatment and care. Maintain the bans on annual and lifetime benefits caps to ensure access to care and coverage when it’s needed most.
• **Sustain strong non-discrimination protections** such as Section 1557 of the ACA that prohibit insurers or providers from discriminating against individuals on the basis of their race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the health care and socioeconomic needs of people living with HIV and millions of others who rely on the marketplaces and Medicaid for access to their care and treatment must be strongly considered in any Congressional action on health care; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, We are hopeful that any reforms proposed under the new Administration and Congress will provide protections for those living with chronic conditions and build upon the lessons learned over the last eight years of health care reform efforts that have extended coverage to millions, strengthened consumer protections, and paved the way for improved health outcome for all Americans; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the United States Congress not to repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act without a replacement plan to maintain the current funding structure of Medicaid.
Resolution urging the United States Congress not to repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act without a clearly-defined replacement plan, and to maintain the current funding structure of the Medicaid program.

January 24, 2017 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED

Ayes: 11 - Breed, Cohen, Farrell, Fewer, Kim, Peskin, Ronen, Safai, Sheehy, Tang and Yee

File No. 170035

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 1/24/2017 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Peggy Noskin
Clerk of the Board

__________________________
Unsigned
Mayor
2/3/17
Date Approved

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.

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Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board
2/3/17
Date