Resolution urging the United States Food and Drug Administration to end the federal ban on blood donation by gay and bisexual men.

WHEREAS, In 1983 the Federal Drug Administration (FDA) banned blood donation by any man who has had sex with another man at least one time since 1977 in response to the AIDS epidemic; and

WHEREAS, In 2015, the FDA amended the policy to ban donations from any man who has had sex with another man at least once within the last year; and

WHEREAS, A number of countries including Italy, Spain and Mexico allow men who have sex with men to donate blood without any regard to sexual activity; and

WHEREAS, The American Medical Association, the Human Rights Campaign, the AIDS Research Institute at the University of California San Francisco and the American Association of Blood Banks are among many organizations that support lifting the FDA prohibition on blood donations from men who have sex with men; and

WHEREAS, Blood banks are already required to test blood donations for HIV and other infections; and

WHEREAS, A 2010 study by the University of California Los Angeles found that lifting the 12 month ban would add another 300,000 pints of blood per year; and

WHEREAS, As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting shelter-in-place and social distancing orders, blood banks across our nation are facing a severe blood shortage; and

Supervisors Mandelman; Yee, Fewer, Preston, Haney, Ronen, Safai, Walton

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
WHEREAS, The American Red Cross has noted that one of the most important things one can do to prevent another health care crisis amid the COVID-19 pandemic is to donate blood; and

WHEREAS, The San Francisco Board of Supervisors has passed resolutions urging the FDA to end the federal ban on blood donation by gay and bisexual men in 2010, 2014 and 2016; and

WHEREAS, On March 24, 2020, California State Senator Scott Wiener wrote a letter to Dr. Stephen M. Hahn, Commissioner of Food and Drugs, requesting the elimination of the FDA’s prohibition on blood donations from gay and bisexual men unless they have been celibate for one year to address a nationwide blood shortage as a result of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, On March 26, 2020, a group of United States Senators including Senators Kamala Harris, Tammy Baldwin, Elizabeth Warren, Bernie Sanders, Amy Klobuchar and Cory Booker wrote a letter to Dr. Hahn expressing concern with the FDA’s prohibition on blood donations from gay and bisexual men unless they have been celibate for one year and urging the FDA to update its policy in light of the COVID-19 nationwide blood shortage; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors calls upon the United States Food and Drug Administration to end the federal policy that prohibits blood donations from any man who has had sex with another man at least once within the last year to address the nationwide blood shortage as a result of COVID-19; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That upon final adoption of this resolution, the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors is directed to transmit a copy to Dr. Stephen M. Hahn, Commissioner of Food and Drugs at the United States Food and Drug Administration.
Resolution urging the United States Food and Drug Administration to end the federal ban on blood donation by gay and bisexual men.

April 07, 2020 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED
Ayes: 11 - Fewer, Haney, Mandelman, Mar, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, Safai, Stefani, Walton and Yee

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 4/7/2020 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 her 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