Resolution supporting Congressman Jimmy Gomez (CA-34) and Senator Patty Murray’s (D-WA), Jeanette Acosta Invest in Women’s Health Act of 2021 legislation that would increase availability of preventive, life-saving cancer screenings by safety net and reproductive health care providers.

WHEREAS, The American Cancer Society estimates that in 2021 there will be approximately 386,660 new cases of breast, uterine, ovarian, and cervical cancer; and

WHEREAS, Due to centuries of systemic racism, women of color in the U.S. face barriers to accessing quality health care; these barriers have devastating consequences, including higher rates of certain cancers, delayed diagnoses and treatment, and increased mortality rates; and

WHEREAS, In San Francisco County, the Greater Bay Area Cancer Registry has a mortality rate in breast cancer of 11.9 in Hispanic Women per 100,000; and

WHEREAS, In San Francisco County, Black Woman with breast cancer have a mortality rate of 25.9 per 100,000; and

WHEREAS, Cervical cancer is highly preventable and treatable, and if caught early, the five-year survival rate is over 90 percent; unfortunately, over 4,000 women in the United States die from the disease each year, and women of color and low-income women are disproportionately impacted; and

WHEREAS, Black women and other women of color die at higher rates from cervical cancer than white women; and
WHEREAS, White women are more likely to be diagnosed with breast cancer, Black women are more likely to die from the disease; and

WHEREAS, The COVID-19 pandemic has made it harder for women to access preventative health services due to changes in employment, loss of insurance, reduced in-person care; and

WHEREAS, 29% of white women report that the pandemic has made it harder to access reproductive health care, 38% of Black women, and 45% of Hispanic women reported an increase in barrier to these preventative health screenings; and

WHEREAS, Of Black women, 32% were concerned with the costs of the test, 29% feared the test, 40% were afraid of the result, and 27% did not think they were at risk; and

WHEREAS, Of Hispanic women, 42% were concerned with the costs of the preventative health screenings, 29% feared the screenings, 28% feared the results, and 32% did not think they were at risks; and

WHEREAS, Planned Parenthood and other healthcare providers engaged in sexual and reproductive healthcare provide critical cancer screenings, education, and referrals to patients; from October 2018 to September 2019, Planned Parenthood health centers across the country provided more than 598,000 services to prevent and screen for cancer; and

WHEREAS, Jeanette Acosta – a University of California Hastings College (UC Hastings) of the Law graduate and native of California’s 34th Congressional District – was a fierce women’s health advocate, a Fulbright Scholar, a former congressional staffer, and a State Vote Director in the President Obama re-election campaign who in 2017, lost her battle with cervical cancer at the age of 32; and

WHEREAS, At UC Hastings, Ms. Acosta was dedicated and fought for civil rights, women’s rights, educational equity for Latinos, undocumented immigrant rights, and Mexican farmworkers’ rights; and
WHEREAS, As a Tony Patino Fellow, Ms. Acosta was the co-chair of La Raza Law
Students Association and Executive Notes Editor of the Hastings Constitutional Law
Quarterly, and earned the prestigious recognition of Student of the Year Award at UC
Hastings in 2016 for her scholarly dedication, social justice advocacy, and leadership at the
school; and

WHEREAS, After her diagnosis, she dedicated her work to advocate for Black and
Hispanic women who died from a preventable disease; and

WHEREAS, The Jeanette Acosta Invest in Women’s Health Act of 2021 is a bill that
highlights and breaks down barriers facing low-income, Latina, Black, and Hispanic women;
and

WHEREAS, Several reproductive health organizations including: Planned Parenthood
Federation of America, Black Women’s Health Imperative, In Our Own Voice: National Black
Women’s Reproductive Justice Agenda, American College of Obstetricians and
Gynecologists, Physicians for Reproductive Health, National Family Planning & Reproductive
Health Association, National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum supports the Jeanette
Acosta Invest in Women’s Health Act of 2021 introduced by Congressman Jimmy Gomez and
U.S Senator Patty Murray; and

WHEREAS, This legislation will increase access to co-testing for HPV and cervical
cancer for those at high risk of cervical cancer, especially those most vulnerable such as,
Black, Hispanic, and Latina women; and

WHEREAS, This legislation would create new demonstration grant and pilot programs
to expand access to preventive services and help train health practitioners, especially in
treating rural and underserved communities, low-income communities, and communities of
color; and
WHEREAS, In the demonstration program, this legislation would include implicit bias, cultural competency, and patient-centered communication training covering the ways in which structural racism and discrimination manifest within the medical field; and

WHEREAS, This legislation will initiate a new study designed to understand and address care for women including a state analysis, cost estimates for federal dollar savings, and recommendations; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That supporting this bill will help prevent the high rates of death among women of color through education, preventive screening, and early detection of cervical and breast cancer and that we must support policies that break down barriers to preventive health care, and, be it

RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco support the Jeanette Acosta Invest in Women’s Health Act of 2021, which promotes and invests in the health and wellness of women; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco distribute this Resolution to San Francisco’s State Legislative Delegation and to California Governor Gavin Newsom.
Resolution supporting Congressman Jimmy Gomez (CA-34) and Senator Patty Murray’s (D-WA), Jeanette Acosta Invest in Women’s Health Act of 2021 legislation that would increase availability of preventive, life-saving cancer screenings by safety net and reproductive health care providers.

April 20, 2021 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED
Ayes: 11 - Chan, Haney, Mandelman, Mar, Melgar, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, Safai, Stefani and Walton

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 4/20/2021 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

04/30/2021