Resolution supporting Governor Gavin Newsom’s 2024 ballot initiative proposal to modernize California’s behavioral healthcare system, which includes California State Senate Bill No. 326, an update of the Mental Health Services Act authored by Senator Susan Talamantes Eggman, and California State Assembly Bill No. 531, a bill authored by Jacqui Irwin that would place before the voters a $4.68 billion General Obligation Bond intended to build at least 10,000 new behavioral health beds across California community treatment campuses and facilities.

WHEREAS, In San Francisco, 52% of people experiencing homelessness suffer from mental health issues and/or substance use disorders and among Californians experiencing homelessness, nearly 40,000 have a severe mental illness, and over 36,000 have a chronic substance use disorder; and

WHEREAS, Within the first five months of 2023 alone, 346 people died in San Francisco from accidental drug overdoses; and

WHEREAS, As California began shuttering State hospitals in the 1950s and shifting responsibility to counties to finance and implement mental health services, people experiencing severe mental illness became overrepresented in the State’s carceral system. As of May 2023, more than 50% of over 96,000 inmates incarcerated in California State prisons were being treated for varying levels of mental illness; and

WHEREAS, As the number of mental health treatment beds per 100,000 people in California decreased 31% from 1998 through 2017, the State currently faces a shortage of at least 6,000 beds to care for patients with mental health disorders and its need for treatment beds will continue to grow; and

Supervisors Mandelman, Stefani, Engardio, Dorsey, Safai
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
WHEREAS, California's lack of mental health infrastructure and facilities to meet acute, subacute, and community residential levels of care has contributed to system bottlenecks, and California's five State hospitals, which treat the most critically ill patients, have a severe shortage of beds with wait times of one year or longer; and

WHEREAS, The Mental Health Services Act, authored by then-Senator Darrell Steinberg and passed as Proposition 63 by voters in 2004, instituted a 1% income tax on personal income in excess of $1 million per year to fund a continuum of prevention, early intervention, and service needs for those experiencing or at risk of severe mental illness; and

WHEREAS, The MHSA requires reforms to better align with current service gaps across the State, including resources for people with the most acute behavioral health issues and substance use disorders; and

WHEREAS, California State Senate Bill No. 320 (SB 326), authored by Senator Susan Talamantes Eggman with the endorsement of Mayor Steinberg, updates the Mental Health Services Act as the Behavioral Health Services Act, expanding services to include treatment for substance use disorders (SUD) alone and allowing counties to use funds in combination with federal funds to expand SUD services; and

WHEREAS, SB 326 also requires that 30% of county allocations, which equates to almost $1 billion per year, be reserved for housing interventions for children and families, youth, adults, and older adults living with severe mental illness, severe emotional disturbance, and/or SUD who are experiencing homelessness or are at risk of homelessness, which include rental subsidies, operating subsidies, shared housing, and family housing; and

WHEREAS, As California is currently experiencing an acute behavioral health workforce shortage, SB 326 addresses this issue by providing up to 3% of annual BHSA funds for the California Health and Human Services Agency (CHHS) to implement a statewide behavioral health workforce initiative; and
WHEREAS, California State Assembly Bill No. 531 (AB 531), authored by
Assemblymember Jacqui Irwin, authorizes a $4.68 billion General Obligation Bond to be
placed on the March 2024 ballot intended to fund the construction, acquisition, and
rehabilitation of unlocked, voluntary, community-based residential care settings for individuals
with behavioral health needs, increasing the availability of care settings that support
rehabilitation and recovery; and

WHEREAS, As more than 70% of veterans experiencing homelessness are affected by
SUD, AB 531 dedicates a portion of bond funding to be disbursed as grants for new
construction, acquisition, rehabilitation, or preservation of affordable multifamily housing to
provide interim, transitional, and permanent supportive housing for veterans who are
homeless, or at risk of homelessness, and living with behavioral health challenges; now,
therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors supports SB 326 and AB
531, which will both be placed before the voters together as a March 2024 ballot initiative;
and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors hereby directs the Clerk of the
Board to transmit a copy of this Resolution to San Francisco’s state legislative delegation, the
Office of the Chief Clerk of the Assembly, and the Office of the Secretary of the Senate.
Resolution supporting Governor Gavin Newsom's 2024 ballot initiative proposal to modernize California's behavioral healthcare system, which includes California State Senate Bill No. 326, an update of the Mental Health Services Act authored by Senator Susan Talamantes Eggman, and California State Assembly Bill No. 531, a bill authored by Jacqui Irwin that would place before the voters a $4.68 billion General Obligation Bond intended to build at least 10,000 new behavioral health beds across California community treatment campuses and facilities.

July 18, 2023 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED
Ayes: 11 - Chan, Dorsey, Engardio, Mandelman, Melgar, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, Safai, Stefani and Walton

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 7/18/2023 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

Date Signed: 07/28/2023