Resolution urging the Department of Public Health and San Francisco-based public and private hospitals to not apply for any State waivers granting a reduction in existing patient-to-nurse ratios.

WHEREAS, On Wednesday, July 30, 2020, the United States counted more than 1,400 deaths from the coronavirus illness (“COVID-19”), as California, Idaho, North Carolina and Florida all recorded single-day totals, increasing the net total deaths in the United States to more than 150,000, the highest death total or roughly a quarter of the 667,744 counted by Johns Hopkins University during that point in time; and

WHEREAS, As of Wednesday, July 30, 2020, a mere six months after the first cases of COVID-19 were reported from China, the United States had 4.4 million confirmed cases, per the aggregate data collected by Johns Hopkins University at that point in time; and

WHEREAS, As of August 23, 2020, California had 4,424 confirmed hospitalizations and 1,388 in the ICU due to COVID-19, as reported by the California Department of Public Health; and

WHEREAS, As of August 24, 2020, California had a total of 668,615 confirmed COVID-19 positive cases and a total of confirmed 12,152 deaths because of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, As of August 23, 2020, the City and County of San Francisco had 8,621 total confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 77 total deaths because of COVID-19, as reported by the California Department of Public Health; and

WHEREAS, On July 29, 2020, the White House Task Force declared that 21 states were currently “code red”, i.e., states that have reached more than 100 new cases per 100,000 people in the previous seven days; and
WHEREAS, On July 31, 2020, the California Department of Public Health confirmed the first death of a young person to succumb to COVID-19, a teenager in the Central Valley; and

WHEREAS, Because of these staggering numbers across California (an increase in case counts and hospitalizations), health-care providers and local elected officials are concerned about not only a possible shortage of health-care workers during this pandemic but also concerned for health workers falling sick or dying from COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, As of July 23, 2020, an Oakland nurse who cared for patients and who tested positive for COVID-19 became one of more than 115 Californian health-care workers to die due to COVID-19 during that point in time; and

WHEREAS, San Francisco’s nursing staff shortage at the Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital Trauma Center is well chronicled and dates back for almost a decade; and

WHEREAS, Thousands of nurses with the California Nurses Association/National Nurses United staged a National Day of Action on August 5th, holding informational pickets and workplace actions at hospitals across 17 States, including actions at Kaiser San Francisco and California Pacific Medical Center, calling for increased staffing, personal protective equipment (“PPE”), expanded COVID-19 testing, and more, with dozens of actions previously at every San Francisco hospital protesting inadequate COVID-19 protections; and

WHEREAS, Because of all of the aforementioned and despite the worrisome human suffering and skyrocketing metrics of COVID-19 in our communities, there are hospitals across California that are now applying for waivers granting a reduction in staffing levels; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, The San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges the San Francisco Department of Public Health and all public sector and private sector hospitals in San Francisco to
Francisco to not apply for a State waiver allowing for a reduction in existing patient-to-nurse ratios.
Resolution urging the Department of Public Health and San Francisco-based public and private hospitals to not apply for any State waivers granting a reduction in existing patient-to-nurse ratios.

September 01, 2020 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED
Ayes: 11 - Fewer, Haney, Mandelman, Mar, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, Safai, Stefani, Walton and Yee

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I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 9/1/2020 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

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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