

**HEALTH COMMISSION**

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

RESOLUTION NO. 096-87

**RESOLUTION ON HIV ANTIBODY TESTING**

WHEREAS, the incidence of AIDS continues to grow with 3,402 cases diagnosed in San Francisco as of June 30, 1987; and,

WHEREAS, the AIDS epidemic strikes the gay male population, and an increasingly significant number of intravenous drug abusers, with a large number of ethnic/racial minorities; and,

WHEREAS, AIDS nationally affects ethnic/racial minorities disproportionately to their numbers in the general population; and they are frequently the subjects of involuntary testing (as in the Job Corps, penal institutions and armed services); and,

WHEREAS, mandatory AIDS testing could deprive individuals of their civil and human rights without health benefit; and,

WHEREAS, there is no clear understanding of the purpose of mandatory testing and what will happen to the individual whose test results are positive -- leading to justifiable fears regarding such issues as housing, employment, and insurance, and quarantine; and

WHEREAS, mandatory testing is considered by health professionals to be ineffective because of the implications noted here, thus driving "underground" the very individuals who need to be drawn to the health care system; and,

WHEREAS, AIDS as a medical/health issue should not become politicized, creating an atmosphere that could adversely affect education and prevention efforts; and,

WHEREAS, it is understood that individuals voluntarily donating blood, organs or tissues must have their blood screened for the HIV antibody; and that broad-based voluntary pre-natal and pre-marital testing be encouraged; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the San Francisco Health Commission encourages and supports voluntary testing, both anonymous and confidential, with appropriate counseling; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that mandatory testing will not prevent the spread of AIDS; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Health Commission opposes mandatory testing.

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Health Commission at its meeting of Tuesday, July 7, 1987.

  
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Sandy Ouye Mori  
Secretary to the Health Commission