

## HEALTH COMMISSION

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

RESOLUTION NO. 21-94 (Cont'd.)

WHEREAS, this Commission supports a policy for the continuum of health and mental health care services for all residents as an appropriate public health policy, and a more rational utilization of our financial resources, recognizing that this policy seeks to alleviate more costly emergency medical interventions at a later date; and,

WHEREAS, approximately one million people, mostly legal immigrants and refugees arrive in the United States each year, and where San Francisco is the new home for many of these persons, and, where immigrants and refugees are a significant and growing part of the diversity and richness of the Bay Area; and,

WHEREAS, health care providers should not be required to determine an individual's immigration status in order to determine the eligibility for basic preventive health care services; and,

WHEREAS, the San Francisco Health Commission supports legislative changes which promote health care access, and the elimination of financial, cultural, linguistic, physical, and operational barriers to services, including language to "essential community providers" as those hospitals qualifying for Medicare disproportionate share adjustments, federally qualified health centers, local health departments, sole community hospitals, rural health clinics, hospitals that qualify as Medicare-dependent hospitals and some qualifying individual health providers; and,

WHEREAS, the San Francisco Health Commission has expressed concern that proposed state and federal legislation may threaten the quality and access to care for those who rely on the public health system, particularly in light of the California budget which proposes an 11.5% county share of cost for all Medi-Cal costs, and the elimination of reimbursement for prenatal care provided to undocumented women; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the San Francisco Health Commission finds that the public health of the City and County of San Francisco requires the enactment of federal and state health reform legislation which will secure universal coverage for all persons presenting the need for medical treatment in the United States, provide adequate funding mechanisms for universal coverage, and provide adequate funding for the provision of public health needs and the improvement of safety net health service providers for the most disenfranchised populations, and, be it,

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the San Francisco Health Commission concludes that the policy of the City and County of San Francisco should be to endorse President Clinton's Health Security Act (H.R. 3600 - Gephardt and S. 1757 - Mitchell) and the American Health Security Act (H.R. 1200-McDermott and S. 491-Wellstone), which as initially introduced are comprehensive approaches and as starting points best address our criteria for significant

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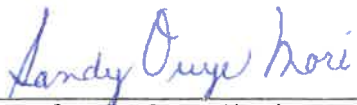
health reform. We acknowledge that each piece of legislation has important limitations which calls for continued efforts to improve any health reform legislation being considered; and, be it,

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the San Francisco Health Commission hereby urges the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor to adopt a policy endorsing President Clinton's Health Security Act (H.R. 3600 - Gephardt and S. 1757-Mitchell) and the American Health Security Act (H.R. 1200-McDermott and S. 491-Wellstone), and to direct the Federal legislative representative for the City and County of San Francisco to support the passage of Federal Health Care Reform legislation that is consistent with the principles set forth herein in order to address the crisis confronting the health of the people of San Francisco and the nation; and,

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the San Francisco Health Commission finds the current national climate of racism and xenophobia towards immigrant residents deeply disturbing as it applies to health care access, and that exclusion of these residents from appropriate health care coverage in all initial federal legislative health care reform efforts is unjust and counterproductive; and, be it,

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the San Francisco Health Commission reaffirms the continued commitment of the San Francisco Department of Public Health to provide services to all those who present the need for medical attention as a moral and ethical obligation.

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Health Commission at its meeting of Tuesday, May 17, 1994.



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Sandy Ouye Mori  
Executive Secretary to  
the Health Commission