

**HEALTH COMMISSION**

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

RESOLUTION NO. 35-94

**CONSIDERATION OF A PROPOSED BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
RESOLUTION TO OPPOSE PROPOSITION 187,  
THE CALIFORNIA "SAVE OUR STATE" INITIATIVE**

WHEREAS, the San Francisco Department of Public Health seeks to promote the health and well-being of all San Franciscans by providing a continuum of medical, mental health, surveillance, and health promotion services, as well as planning and promoting sound public policies for public health and health care delivery; and,

WHEREAS, Proposition 187, the "Save Our State" initiative, which will appear on the ballot for California's November 1994 general election, proposes to deny undocumented persons access to publicly-funded education, health care, and social services and to require public agencies providing these services to report persons "suspected" to be undocumented to immigration authorities; and,

WHEREAS, Proposition 187 contradicts principles consistently supported by this Commission endorsing universal health care coverage for all people as a right, not a privilege of citizenship; and,

WHEREAS, California Welfare and Institutions Code Section 17,000 clearly states that every county is obligated to provide for the medical needs of the poor and indigent; and,

WHEREAS, providing timely, cost-effective health care services to all persons regardless of their legal status promotes sound public policy and contributes to a healthier environment for all residents; and,

WHEREAS, Proposition 187's requirement that publicly-funded health care facilities verify the immigration status of persons suspected to be undocumented will increase the likelihood that immigrants will delay seeking timely medical attention for fear of harassment or deportation; and,

WHEREAS, this situation may result in a significant increase in the number of persons treated in SFGH's emergency room whose conditions might have been treated less expensively in an outpatient facility; and,

WHEREAS, studies have consistently shown that prenatal care services, for which undocumented women are eligible under current law, significantly improve a woman's ability to deliver a healthy baby and minimizes utilization of costly neonatal care; and,

WHEREAS, denying undocumented children access to immunization through publicly-funded health care facilities would reduce the already low percentage (49%) of San Francisco two-year olds who are fully immunized, and increase the risk of contagious disease outbreaks among young children; and,

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RESOLUTION NO. 35-94 (Cont'd.)

WHEREAS, California led the nation in AIDS deaths in 1992 and had the second highest number of deaths from tuberculosis, and where failure to provide undocumented persons preventative and treatment services for these and other contagious diseases would hinder efforts to control the spread of these diseases among the population as a whole; and,

WHEREAS, Proposition 187 proposes to deny undocumented persons incarcerated in the San Francisco County Jail and other correctional facilities in California access to non-emergency health care services and, thus, exacerbate the difficulty of controlling the spread of contagious diseases among inmates, employees and the population at large upon their release; and,

WHEREAS, Proposition 187 proposes to require DPH staff to assume unreasonable administrative burdens associated with verifying the immigration status of persons suspected to be undocumented, which will force DPH to divert scarce resources from direct patient care; and,

WHEREAS, Proposition 187 proposes to preclude DPH from furnishing health care services to all undocumented persons, even those who have private health insurance or are otherwise able to pay for their care; and,

WHEREAS, Proposition 187 may violate federal statutes governing Medi-Cal, Federally Qualified Health Centers, and federal grants for AIDS outreach and services, immunization, tuberculosis control and other public health services, and where San Francisco could lose a significant portion of the \$9 billion the Legislative Analyst's Office estimates California would lose in current federal assistance; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the San Francisco Health Commission urges the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor to support the passage of Resolution 060-94-013 expressing opposition to Proposition 187, and urging the Mayor to educate the electorate about the negative impacts of this measure on the City and County of San Francisco; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Commission finds the current climate of racism and xenophobia toward immigrants in both California and the nation deeply disturbing as it applies to health care access and counterproductive to efforts to improve the health of all residents; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Commission supports the continued commitment of the health service providers of the City and County of San Francisco to care for all San Franciscans who require medical attention regardless of their legal status.

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Health Commission at its meeting of Tuesday, August 16, 1994.



Sandy Ouye Mori  
Executive Secretary to  
the Health Commission