

HEALTH COMMISSION
CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
RESOLUTION NO. 9-95

**URGING THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS TO TAKE
A POSITION IN OPPOSITION TO ASSEMBLY BILL 154**

WHEREAS, California Welfare and Institutions Code Section 17000 requires Counties to provide general assistance relief to indigent persons who have no other means of support; and,

WHEREAS, the City and County of San Francisco provides assistance to approximately 14,700 indigent persons on a monthly basis through its County-administered General Assistance Program; and,

WHEREAS, the provision of general assistance relief to indigent persons assists such individuals in either locating or maintaining housing, purchasing necessary food, providing for necessary personal hygiene, and in doing so, endeavors to reduce the number of persons who may be at-risk of homelessness; and,

WHEREAS, general assistance relief (either in cash grants or in in-kind assistance) can directly improve and protect the health status of indigent persons by enabling them to provide for the basic necessities of life; and,

WHEREAS, Assembly Bill 154, as introduced by Assembly Member Richter, proposes to amend California Welfare and Institutions Code Section 17000 by making the provision of County general assistance programs discretionary; and,

WHEREAS, passage of Assembly Bill 154 further threatens to lower the health status of indigent persons who will be unable to provide for life's necessities through general assistance relief and, therefore, at greater risk for poor health outcomes; and,

WHEREAS, passage of Assembly Bill 154 will increase the provision of unsponsored indigent health services and the cost of such services, which are absorbed almost entirely by the City and County of San Francisco; and,

WHEREAS, passage of Assembly Bill 154 may cause some surrounding Counties to eliminate or significantly reduce their general assistance programs, and result in increased migration into San Francisco, requiring the City and County to absorb the additional health and welfare costs associated with providing services to more indigent persons; and,

WHEREAS, Assembly Bill 154 does not address either the long-term health effects of, or the fiscal impact to counties amending California Welfare and Institutions Code Section 17000 to be a discretionary program; now, therefore, be it


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RESOLUTION NO. 9-95 (Cont'd.)

RESOLVED, that the San Francisco Health Commission urges the Board of Supervisors to take a position in opposition to Assembly Bill 154.

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Health Commission at its meeting of Tuesday, March 21, 1995



Sandy Ouye Mori
Executive Secretary to
the Health Commission