

HEALTH COMMISSION
CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
RESOLUTION NO. 19-96

**SUPPORTING THE CONTINUED PROVISION OF PUBLIC BENEFITS TO
UNDOCUMENTED RESIDENTS UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION
411(d) OF THE PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY AND WORK OPPORTUNITY
RECONCILIATION ACT OF 1996 (H.R. 3734)**

WHEREAS, President Clinton has signed into law the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (H.R. 3734) which eliminates the federal entitlement to Aid to Families with Dependent Children and Food Stamps, limits eligibility for Social Security Income for children, and denies most federal public benefits to legal immigrants and undocumented residents; and,

WHEREAS, Governor Wilson has issued Executive Order W-135-96 instructing "all state agencies, departments, boards and commissions" to implement the provisions of H.R. 3734 relating to illegal immigrants "as expeditiously as reasonably practicable," and,

WHEREAS, implementation of Executive Order W-135-96 would result in undocumented residents being denied certain health care services including prenatal care; and,

WHEREAS, over the last several years, and in his fiscal year 1996-97 budget, the Governor of California has consistently sought to eliminate Medi-Cal funded prenatal care services for undocumented women; and,

WHEREAS, studies have consistently shown that prenatal care services have been unequivocally shown to be a cost-effective, preventive service and significantly improves a woman's ability to deliver a healthy baby and minimizes utilization of costly neonatal care; and,

WHEREAS, denying undocumented women access to prenatal care is counter to preventive health care, increases the risk of low-birth weight infants and places the expectant mother and her unborn child at unnecessary risk for complications during pregnancy; and,

WHEREAS, the Health Commission and the San Francisco Board of Supervisors have previously indicated support for undocumented residents access to health care by opposing Proposition 187, the California "Save our State" Initiative (Health Commission Resolutions 35-94 and 47-94 and Board of Supervisor Resolutions 807-94 and 965-94); and,

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WHEREAS, elimination of State funding for health care to undocumented residents shifts the cost of providing such services to counties and San Francisco has estimated the financial impact of eliminating State funding for prenatal care to be \$2.4 million in increased expenditures; and,

WHEREAS, Section 411(d) of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act of 1996 (H.R. 3734) allows a state to continue providing public benefits to undocumented residents through enactment of state law; and,

WHEREAS, under current Welfare and Institutions Code section 14007.5 State law allows emergency care, medically necessary pregnancy-related services and long-term care under certain circumstances to be provided to aliens; and,

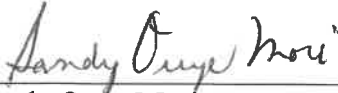
WHEREAS, the State of California has the ability to continue providing health care services, including prenatal care, to undocumented residents under the provisions of Section 411(d) of the Act; and now let it be,

RESOLVED, that until further notice, the Health Commission directs the Department of Public Health to continue providing health related services to undocumented residents including vital prenatal care services to undocumented women; and be it,

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Health Commission urges the Department of Public Health to work in collaboration with community-based agencies and advocates to inform expectant mothers of the value and need of prenatal care and to stress that the Department will continue to provide this service, regardless of a woman's residency or income status; and, be it,

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Health Commission urges the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors to support the adoption of State policy to continue providing public benefits to undocumented persons.

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Health Commission at its meeting of September 3, 1996.



Sandy Ouye Mori
Executive Secretary to the Health Commission