

HEALTH COMMISSION
City and County of San Francisco
Resolution No. 12-09

**URGING CONGRESS TO INCLUDE A PUBLIC OPTION IN HEALTHCARE
REFORM LEGISLATION**

WHEREAS, healthcare costs in the United States consume 18 percent of the country's gross national product, more than any other industrialized nation in the world, yet the United States ranks 24th in life expectancy among developed countries; and,

WHEREAS, there are an estimated 47 million uninsured Americans and 62,000 uninsured San Franciscans; and,

WHEREAS, individuals who are uninsured delay seeking care when they are ill, thus causing greater complexity and more costly healthcare; and,

WHEREAS, uninsured individuals have greater difficulty obtaining needed medical care, have lower health status, and have a greater risk of death than do insured individuals; and,

WHEREAS, the high cost of health care premiums are the principle reason why many employers, particularly small employers, do not offer health care coverage and why many low-income working people cannot afford coverage on their own; and,

WHEREAS Mayor Newsom's 2005 State of the City pledge promised universal health care access to the city's uninsured population; and,

WHEREAS, the City and County of San Francisco has taken the following steps to expand health care coverage since the passage of Proposition J with a 65 percent majority in November 1998: (1) expanded health care coverage to In-Home Support Services (IHSS) workers, (2) launched a pilot program to offer health insurance to low-income child care providers, (3) launched the Healthy Kids program resulting in universal coverage for children in San Francisco, (4) drafted a proposed health insurance coverage component to the Minimum Compensation Ordinance, and (5) launched the Healthy San Francisco program; and,

WHEREAS, the San Francisco Department of Public Health implemented the Healthy San Francisco program in 2007 to make health care services accessible and affordable to uninsured San Francisco residents; and,

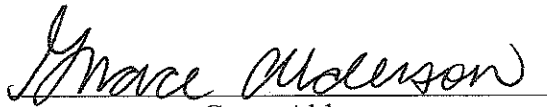
WHEREAS, prior to his election in November 2008, President Obama made a promise to prioritize an overhaul of the current healthcare system during his first year in office in order to ensure all Americans are provided with adequate coverage; and,

WHEREAS, in August 2009, President Obama proposed a public healthcare plan that would compete with private insurance companies to make healthcare more affordable for all Americans; and,

WHEREAS, President Obama's proposed public option strives to grant all Americans the security that quality and affordable healthcare will always be available; now, therefore be it,

RESOLVED, that the San Francisco Health Commission strongly urges Congress to support the inclusion of a public health insurance option as an essential component of comprehensive health care reform this year.

I hereby certify that the San Francisco Health Commission at its meeting on September 1, 2009 adopted the foregoing resolution.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Grace Alderson", is written over a horizontal line.

Grace Alderson

Acting Commission Executive Secretary