

1 [Transgender Health Care Inclusion in Healthy San Francisco]

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3 **Resolution calling on the San Francisco Department of Public Health to provide**
4 **medically necessary transition-related care for transgender people and to remove**
5 **exclusions under the San Francisco Health Care Security Ordinance.**

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7 WHEREAS, Access to health care is regularly denied to transgender and gender non-
8 conforming people, who frequently experience discrimination, including denial of services,
9 when attempting to access health care; and

10 WHEREAS, Transition-related medical care, including surgeries, is often dismissed as
11 “cosmetic” or “elective” despite the medical community’s recognition of such procedures as
12 medically necessary and effective treatment; and

13 WHEREAS, Various studies have concluded that receiving medically necessary
14 transition related treatment results in a dramatic drop in suicidality, an overall improvement in
15 mental health, a reduction in HIV infection, a decline in substance abuse rates, and an
16 increase in socioeconomic status for transgender people; and

17 WHEREAS, The Health Care Security Ordinance (“Healthy SF”) — San Francisco’s
18 locally designed and funded health care program for uninsured adults — currently provides
19 certain health care services to transgender participants, but administratively excludes other
20 services, such as sex reassignment surgery based on a diagnosis of gender identity
21 dysphoria, when the same services are provided to non-transgender participants, thus
22 denying transgender residents access to necessary health care under this local program; and

23 WHEREAS, The exclusion of certain transition-related procedures singles out and
24 negatively impacts transgender people; and

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1 WHEREAS, Unlike vision and dental coverage, this exclusion is not mandated by the
2 Health Care Security Ordinance itself; and

3 WHEREAS, Assemblymember Tom Ammiano, the primary author of the ordinance,
4 has said that he intended Healthy SF to eventually include transition related health care and
5 that the program was intended to address the needs of San Franciscans without
6 discrimination against any resident; and

7 WHEREAS, The Director of Public Health and the Director of the Human Rights
8 Commission have been working together and with the community to fulfill the intent of Healthy
9 SF by extending its coverage to the complete medical needs of transgender people; and

10 WHEREAS, Concerns of cost and over-utilization are often overstated and serve to
11 justify impermissible discrimination against the transgender community; and

12 WHEREAS, The California Department of Insurance studied actuarial data of five
13 employers, including the City and County of San Francisco, and concluded in its “Economic
14 Impact Statement” that the economic impact of transgender health care inclusion is
15 insignificant and immaterial, and that inclusion in fact provides cost savings as well as
16 significant benefits for the health, welfare, and safety of the transgender population; and

17 WHEREAS, A growing trend among private businesses is to remove transgender
18 health care exclusions; and

19 WHEREAS, Courts have recognized the injustice of excluding medically necessary
20 transition-related health services; now, therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors reaffirms its strong commitment to equal
22 and fair treatment of transgender people; and, be it

23 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the San Francisco
24 Department of Public Health to remove the sexual-reassignment surgery exclusion from
25 Healthy SF; and, be it

1 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the San Francisco
2 Department of Public Health, with community input, to take administrative steps necessary to
3 provide medically necessary gender-transition-related care.

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