

1 [Resolution Urging Passage of Federal Prescription Drug Plan]

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3 **Resolution urging the United States Congress to address the crisis of the rapidly rising**
4 **costs for prescription drugs.**

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6 WHEREAS, On July 31, 2002 the United States Senate failed to pass a prescription
7 drug benefit for seniors, leaving 40 million Americans on Medicare without help; and,

8 WHEREAS, Average prescription drug costs for the nation's 40 million Medicare
9 beneficiaries are up nearly 30% in the past two years; and,

10 WHEREAS, Nearly 40% of seniors on Medicare have no prescription drug insurance
11 and these seniors pay the highest prices for their drugs; and,

12 WHEREAS, Many elderly people risk illness by cutting pills in half to stretch out their
13 prescriptions, and many others choose between buying groceries and buying medicine; and,

14 WHEREAS, Seniors in California and across the nation are being dropped from their
15 Medicare HMO plans and facing higher premiums or new spending limits for their
16 prescriptions; and,

17 WHEREAS, The 85 and over age group is the fastest growing age group in San
18 Francisco, California, and the United States, by the year 2030, this percentage is expected to
19 double to over 26,000 individuals, or 4% of the total population in San Francisco; and,

20 WHEREAS, Rising prices put lifesaving drugs increasingly beyond the reach of most
21 senior citizens, making this issue of urgent importance; now, therefore be it

22 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
23 urges the United States Congress to address the crisis of rapidly rising costs for prescription
24 drugs.

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