

1 [Urging the United States Food and Drug Administration to Ban Menthol in Tobacco Products]

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3 **Resolution urging the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to ban menthol in**
4 **cigarettes and other tobacco products.**

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6 WHEREAS, A high percentage of children aged 12-17 years, including Asian
7 American, Latino/Hispanic, African American, and white high school-aged teens who smoke
8 use menthol cigarettes; and

9 WHEREAS, A high percentage of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer
10 (LGBTQ) smokers, particularly youth, smoke menthol cigarettes; and

11 WHEREAS, The tobacco industry has a well-documented history of developing and
12 marketing mentholated brands to racial and ethnic minorities and youth; and

13 WHEREAS, The tobacco industry manipulated the dose of menthol in cigarettes to
14 ensure the uptake and continued use of tobacco, especially by young people and other
15 vulnerable populations for many years; and

16 WHEREAS, Mentholated and flavored products have been proven to be a “starter”
17 product for youth who begin smoking; and

18 WHEREAS, The U.S. Food and Drug Administration already prohibits cigarettes from
19 having candy, fruit, and spice as characterizing flavors because these flavors make tobacco
20 products especially appealing to children, and often lead to a lifetime of tobacco addiction;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, Menthol was expressly exempted from the ban on characterizing flavors in
23 cigarettes; and

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1 WHEREAS, The tobacco industry has perniciously targeted African Americans with
2 mentholated products and as a result many African American smokers smoke menthol
3 cigarettes, as compared to white smokers; and

4 WHEREAS, The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has the authority to issue product
5 standards to promote public health, which can include reducing or eliminating certain
6 ingredients; and

7 WHEREAS, Other tobacco products (including but not limited to smokeless tobacco,
8 cigarillos, little cigars, hookah tobacco, and dissolvable tobacco products) are not included in
9 the ban on candy, fruit, spice or other characterizing flavors; and

10 WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco is committed to the health and well
11 being of its residents and is particularly concerned about preventing tobacco use among
12 youth; now, therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
14 hereby urges the Food and Drug Administration to exercise its authority to ban the use of
15 menthol in cigarettes and other tobacco products in the United States; and, be it

16 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San
17 Francisco urge the Food and Drug Administration to recognize the severity of the tobacco
18 industry's pernicious targeting of marginalized communities and to create an entity within the
19 FDA to address the special and disparate needs of these populations; and, be it

20 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of the City and
21 County of San Francisco shall send a copy of this resolution to U.S. Food and Drug
22 Administration leadership as well as San Francisco's State and Federal representatives.
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