

1 [Urging the 109th Congress to pass S 910 and HR 1849, the Breast Cancer Patient Protection
2 Act of 2005.]

3 **Resolution urging the 109th Congress to pass S 910 and HR 1849, the Breast Cancer**
4 **Patient Protection Act of 2005, requiring a post-mastectomy hospital stay to be**
5 **determined by the patient and her doctor, not an insurance company.**

6
7 WHEREAS, Breast cancer is the most common cancer among women and about
8 211,000 women are estimated to be diagnosed with invasive breast cancer in 2005; and

9 WHEREAS, One in every seven women will be diagnosed with invasive breast cancer
10 in her lifetime; and,

11 WHEREAS, Deaths from breast cancer are decreasing because of early detection and
12 improved treatment; and,

13 WHEREAS, Health insurance organizations in many states are not required to consult
14 with a patient's doctor when determining the approved length of hospitalization following
15 mastectomy or lymph node dissection; and,

16 WHEREAS, Laws in at least 18 states, including California, allow breast cancer
17 patients and their doctors to determine the length of their stay, thereby protecting patients
18 from insurance companies that would otherwise force them to leave the hospital too soon; and

19 WHEREAS, The American Medical Association supports the fundamental concept that
20 medical decisions should be made by patients and their physicians, rather than by insurers;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, S910 and HR 1849 would require health insurance companies to provide
23 at least 48 hours of hospital stay in connection with a mastectomy or breast conserving
24 surgery and at least a 24 hour stay in connection with a lymph node dissection unless the
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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

1 patient and her physician determine that a shorter stay would be medically appropriate; now,
2 therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco hereby
4 urges the 109th Congress to pass S 910 and HR 1849, the Breast Cancer Patient Protection
5 Act Of 2005; and be it

6 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Board sends a copy of this resolution to
7 Senator Olympia J. Snowe, 154 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington D.C., 20510-
8 1903, and Congresswoman Sue W. Kelly, 2182 Rayburn HOB, Washington D.C., 20515.

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