

1 [Urging Accreditation Council of Graduate Medical Education to Take Action and Support  
2 Resident Physicians During COVID-19]

3 **Resolution urging the Accreditation Council of Graduate Medical Education to take**  
4 **action and demonstrate partnership with the Committee of Interns and Residents/SEIU**  
5 **to protect Resident Physicians during COVID-19.**

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7 WHEREAS, Nationwide, Resident Physicians are on the frontline of our hospital  
8 systems, testing, treating and saving the lives of our communities that have been diagnosed  
9 with the novel coronavirus or COVID-19; and

10 WHEREAS, Resident Physicians are medical school graduates who are participating in  
11 training in a specialized area of medicine; and

12 WHEREAS, Hospital systems were widely unprepared with sufficient Personal  
13 Protective Equipment (PPE) or proper safety procedures and protocols to keep Resident  
14 Physicians safe during this global pandemic; and

15 WHEREAS, The Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME),  
16 according to its website, “sets standards for US graduate medical education (residency and  
17 fellowship) programs and the institutions that sponsor them,” and that “[t]hrough accreditation,  
18 innovations, and initiatives, the ACGME strives to ensure that residents and fellows train in  
19 educational environments that support patient safety, resident and fellow education, and  
20 physician well-being;” and

21 WHEREAS, The ACGME, through its accreditation authority, holds the leverage to  
22 ensure hospitals and employers are taking appropriate precautions to keep Resident  
23 Physicians safe while they are treating COVID-19 patients; and

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1           WHEREAS, The Committee of Interns and Residents/SEIU (CIR/SEIU) the union that  
2 represents 17,000 Resident Physicians nationally, strives to improve the working conditions of  
3 Resident Physicians who are both unionized and nonunionized; and

4           WHEREAS, In the absence of clear of directives to protect the health and safety of  
5 Resident Physicians at the onset of the COVID-19 crisis, CIR/SEIU released an “Open Letter  
6 to the ACGME;” and

7           WHEREAS, The “Open Letter to the ACGME” asked for 10 points to be enacted to  
8 ensure that hospitals put measures in place that promote safe and healthy working conditions  
9 so that Resident Physicians can continue to care for patients and communities, including:

- 10           1) Instructing hospitals to provide paid leave time for COVID-19 exposure quarantine  
11           and/or illness and for anyone who is the caretaker of a person with COVID-19  
12           illness, and
- 13           2) Ensuring that resident physicians are appropriately working within their scope of  
14           practice and at the top of their licenses; by ensuring residents are not doing triage  
15           or nursing work we can maximize physician capacity in this time of crisis, and
- 16           3) Guaranteeing that any changes in rotation or missed time due to COVID-19 will not  
17           result in the extension of residency training; and

18           WHEREAS, From the 10 points in the letter, it is also important to highlight the need for  
19 child care, mental health services without repercussions, paid leave for Resident Physicians  
20 that get sick, as well as, disability insurance and protections for especially vulnerable Resident  
21 Physicians that may be medically vulnerable themselves; and

22           WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors has an important interest in ensuring the safety  
23 of Resident Physicians that deliver medical care to community members and visitors  
24 throughout the city of San Francisco; and

1           WHEREAS, There is a substantial risk to our communities and healthcare providers if  
2 ACGME does not work with CIR/SEIU to weigh in on these 10 points and create a safe  
3 working environment for Resident Physicians; now, therefore, be it

4           RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors strongly urge the ACGME to create  
5 standards that address the 10 points in the CIR/SEIU “Open Letter” and work with CIR/SEIU  
6 to ensure the safety of Resident Physicians; and, be it

7           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Board to transmit a copy of the  
8 Resolution to the ACGME.

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