

1 [Urging Pharmacies and Medical Providers to Address Pharmacy Deserts by Expanding
2 Services in Underserved Neighborhoods]

3 **Resolution urging pharmacies and medical providers to address pharmacy deserts by**
4 **expanding services in underserved neighborhoods.**

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6 WHEREAS, Access to pharmacies is an essential component of public health,
7 providing residents with life-saving medications, vaccinations, and basic healthcare services
8 and products; and

9 WHEREAS, The closure of pharmacies disproportionately affects low-income
10 residents, seniors, individuals with disabilities, and those with limited mobility, who often rely
11 on nearby pharmacy locations for their daily medical needs and affordable daily products; and

12 WHEREAS, Walgreens has announced the closure of 12 store locations across San
13 Francisco, including the last two remaining pharmacies in District 10, located at 5300 3rd
14 Street and 1189 Potrero Avenue, effectively turning these neighborhoods into pharmacy
15 deserts; and

16 WHEREAS, Many independent neighborhood pharmacies in San Francisco have been
17 forced to shut down over the years due to the expansion of large pharmacy chains, leaving
18 many communities—particularly in historically underserved areas—without adequate
19 pharmacy access; and

20 WHEREAS, The absence of local pharmacies forces many residents to travel long
21 distances for essential prescriptions, rely on mail-order services, or attempt to navigate online
22 pharmacy options—an unfeasible solution for seniors and individuals facing technological or
23 financial barriers; and

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1 WHEREAS, The lack of accessible pharmacies exacerbates existing health disparities,
2 making it more difficult for residents to manage chronic conditions, obtain preventative care,
3 and access over-the-counter medical supplies; and

4 WHEREAS, Ensuring equitable access to pharmacy services aligns with San
5 Francisco’s commitment to public health, racial and economic equity, and the well-being of all
6 residents, particularly those in marginalized communities; now, therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges existing pharmacies, healthcare
8 providers, and medical institutions of San Francisco to expand their services into
9 neighborhoods affected by pharmacy closures and address the growing issue of pharmacy
10 deserts; and, be it

11 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors calls upon the San Francisco
12 Department of Public Health and other relevant agencies to explore partnerships with
13 independent pharmacies, community health centers, and nonprofit healthcare providers to
14 expand pharmacy access in underserved neighborhoods; and, be it

15 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges Walgreens and other
16 major pharmacy chains to reconsider planned closures, extend their operating timelines
17 where possible, and work collaboratively with city officials to ensure a smooth transition for
18 affected residents; and, be it

19 FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be sent to the leadership of
20 Walgreens, CVS, Target, Safeway, Lucky’s, and other pharmacy providers, as well as the San
21 Francisco Department of Public Health and local healthcare organizations including Kaiser
22 Permanente, UCSF, Sutter Health, Dignity Health, North East Medical Services, urging them
23 to take immediate steps to prevent further pharmacy deserts and safeguard equitable access
24 to healthcare in San Francisco.