

1 [Urging Governor Gavin Newsom and the California State Budget Committee to Restore
2 Optional Adult Acupuncture Benefit in Medi-Cal to the California State Budget]

3 **Resolution urging Governor Gavin Newsom and the California State Budget Committee**
4 **to restore optional adult acupuncture benefit in Medi-Cal with an estimated cost of**
5 **\$5,500,000 in Fiscal Year 2024-2025 and ongoing \$13,100,000 to the California State**
6 **Budget.**

7
8 WHEREAS, Under the California Budget Proposal Revision published on May 10,
9 2024, Governor Gavin Newsom eliminated optional adult acupuncture benefit in Medi-Cal,
10 with an estimated cost reduction of \$5,500,000 in Fiscal Year 2024-2025 and ongoing
11 \$13,100,000 from the General Fund; and

12 WHEREAS, Acupuncture was introduced to the American public in 1971, and more
13 than 7,000 clinical trials on acupuncture have been conducted globally, particularly as a
14 therapeutic treatment for cancer patients, auxiliary treatment of infertility, and pain
15 management; and

16 WHEREAS, In 2022, California Acupuncture Board reported that there are
17 approximately 11,819 active licensed acupuncturists in 2022 and about 9.3% of patients who
18 utilize Medi-Cal to pay for acupuncture services; and

19 WHEREAS, The National Institutes of Health (NIH) Heal Initiative reported that 50
20 million adults in America live with chronic pain and nearly 20 million people suffer from pain
21 that interferes with their daily lives, but alternative pain management strategies, such as
22 acupuncture, are often inaccessible and inadequate; and

23 WHEREAS, According to the NIH report, more than 5.5 million people live with opioid
24 use disorder across the country and about 75% of drug overdose deaths involve opioid; and

25

1 WHEREAS, Leading research continue to demonstrate that acupuncture can be a
2 potential nonpharmacological alternative to pain management as well as a component of
3 comprehensive strategies to address opioid use disorder and reduce the risk of opioid
4 reliance; and

5 WHEREAS; Acupuncture is considered a holistic approach to medicine that focuses on
6 a patient’s physical, mental, spiritual and social needs, and serves as a lifeline for patients
7 who are non-responsive to conventional medicine; and

8 WHEREAS, Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) that specializes in serving
9 historically marginalized communities, minorities, and communities of color, have been
10 expanding acupuncture services since 2016 and providing a life-changing treatment to many
11 patients who seek acupuncture services and who would not be able to receive them without
12 the assistance of Medi-Cal; and

13 WHEREAS, On May 29, 2024, Senator Scott Wiener, Chair of the Senate Budget
14 Committee, working along with Legislative API Caucus, including Assemblymembers Phil Ting
15 and Evan Low, announced an agreement to preserve acupuncture Medi-Cal benefits in the
16 budget proposal, which is scheduled to be finalized by June 15, 2024; now, therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges Governor Newsom and the
18 California Senate Budget Committee to recognize the importance of acupuncture services to
19 Medi-Cal patients and commit to fully restoring optional adult acupuncture benefit in Medi-Cal
20 upon the passage of the California State Budget; and, be it

21 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors hereby directs the Clerk of the
22 Board to send a copy of this Resolution to the Governor’s Office, Senator Scott Wiener, and
23 the California Senate Budget Committee Chair.

24
25