

1 [Urging Protection of Medi-Cal Dental Funding for California Children]

2

3 **Resolution urging the Governor and State Legislature to protect Medi-Cal Dental**
4 **funding for California children; and reject proposed cuts and to fully restore funding in**
5 **the 2026 state budget.**

6

7 WHEREAS, The health and well-being of children is a fundamental priority for the state
8 of California and for the residents of San Francisco; and

9 WHEREAS, Preventive dental care is essential to children’s overall health, educational
10 success, and long-term well-being, and untreated dental disease can lead to pain, infection,
11 difficulty eating, and preventable emergency room visits; and

12 WHEREAS, Dental pain is one of the leading reasons children miss school, with nearly
13 900,000 school days lost in California each year due to dental problems, directly undermining
14 academic achievement and family stability; and

15 WHEREAS, Medi-Cal Dental (Denti-Cal) provides critical access to preventive and
16 restorative dental care for millions of low-income children across California, including children
17 and families residing in the San Francisco; and

18 WHEREAS, The Governor’s proposed 2026 state budget includes a \$144 million
19 reduction to Medi-Cal Dental for children, a cut that would also forfeit approximately \$182
20 million in matching federal funds, compounding the impact of the reduction; and

21 WHEREAS, These proposed cuts represent approximately four-hundredths of one
22 percent (0.045%) of California’s \$323 billion state budget, yet would have outsized and lasting
23 consequences for children’s health; and

24

25

1 WHEREAS, Reducing funding for preventive dental care does not save money, but
2 instead shifts costs to more expensive emergency room and acute care settings, increasing
3 long-term healthcare expenditures for state and local governments; and

4 WHEREAS, Budgets are a reflection of priorities, and protecting children’s access to
5 basic healthcare, including dental care should remain a core priority of the state of California;
6 now, therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
8 hereby urges Governor Gavin Newsom and the California Legislature to reject proposed cuts
9 to Medi-Cal Dental and to fully restore and protect funding for children’s dental care in the
10 2026 state budget; and, be it

11 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors affirms that dental care is
12 healthcare, and that access to preventive dental services is essential to keeping children
13 healthy, in school, and out of emergency rooms; and, be it

14 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Board shall transmit copies of this
15 Resolution to the Governor, the Speaker of the Assembly, the President pro Tempore of the
16 Senate, and San Francisco’s state legislative delegation; and, be it

17 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco stands with
18 community leaders, healthcare providers, educators, and families across California in calling
19 on state leaders to put children’s health first and keep their hands off kids’ health.

20
21
22
23
24
25