

1 [Supporting the Creation of the Health Information Exchange]

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3 **Resolution supporting the creation of the Health Information Exchange in the City and**  
4 **County of San Francisco.**

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6 WHEREAS, There exists no unified digital medical record system in San Francisco in  
7 which health care providers can securely exchange patient health information, nor a unified  
8 medical record system in which patients can access their personal health records; and

9 WHEREAS, The predominant method of sharing health data when patients switch  
10 doctors, transfer between healthcare providers or receive emergency care away from their  
11 medical home is vis-a-vis courier, fax or US Mail; and

12 WHEREAS, Those materials with shared health data can be misplaced, making vital  
13 information about the patient unavailable to the provider at the point of care; and

14 WHEREAS, This lost information has an adverse impact on provider efficiency, overall  
15 costs and patient care; and

16 WHEREAS, Health Information Technology expansion could save the United States as  
17 much as \$261 billion over the next ten years; and

18 WHEREAS, Annual savings from a Health Care Information Exchange ranges from  
19 \$81 billion to \$162 billion, according to a report from the Commission on U.S. Federal  
20 Leadership in Health and Medicine; and

21 WHEREAS, The health information exchange has received support and funding  
22 through the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act, contained  
23 within the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act ; and

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1           WHEREAS, There are approximately 73 operational health information exchanges  
2 transmitting data nationwide, including ones in New Jersey, Santa Cruz; and Mendocino  
3 County; and

4           WHEREAS, A Health Information Exchange is compatible with San Francisco's goals  
5 in improving medical care; and

6           WHEREAS, The Creation of a Health Care Information Exchange will improve the  
7 City's medical providers' time and cost effectiveness; now, therefore, be it

8           RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors supports the creation of a  
9 San Francisco Health Information Exchange under the guidance of the San Francisco Medical  
10 Society Community Service Foundation and a diverse board of San Francisco healthcare  
11 industry professionals, including representatives from the City and County of San Francisco;  
12 and, be it

13           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the creation of a San Francisco Health Information  
14 exchange will help make San Francisco a leader in health care innovation and improve the  
15 City's medical services by positively impacting patient care in San Francisco and saving  
16 millions of dollars in overall health care costs.

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