

1 [Supporting Assembly Bill 1263 - Medi-Cal: CommuniCal - Reliable Access to Language
2 Interpretation for Medi-Cal Beneficiaries]

3 **Resolution urging the California State Legislature to pass Assembly Bill 1263, which**
4 **creates “Medi-Cal: CommuniCal,” a program that provides reliable access to language**
5 **interpretation for Medi-Cal beneficiaries who are limited English proficient.**

6
7 WHEREAS, California has been long recognized as one of the most racially and
8 linguistically diverse states with residents who speak over 200 languages; and

9 WHEREAS, Approximately one in five Californians is limited English proficient (LEP)
10 and identifies as speaking English less than very well; and

11 WHEREAS, Language access and the right to interpretation services is required under
12 Title VI of the Federal Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Dymally-Alatorre Bilingual Services Act of
13 1973 (Chapter 17.5 (commencing with Section 7290) of Division 7 of Title 1 of the
14 Government Code), the Knox-Keene Healthcare Services Plan Act of 1975 (Chapter 2.2
15 (commencing with Section 1340) of Division 2 of the Health and Safety Code), Section 11135
16 of the Government Code, Section 1259 of the Health and Safety Code, and California Civil
17 Rights law; and

18 WHEREAS, The demand for medical interpretation services by Medi-Cal beneficiaries
19 is significant, with 45.2 percent of Medi-Cal beneficiaries speaking a language other than
20 English; and

21 WHEREAS, The state will experience an even greater demand for language services
22 as health care reform measures are implemented over the next few years and 35 percent of
23 Californians expected to become newly eligible for Medi-Cal as a result of the federal Patient
24 Protection and Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111-148) will speak English less than well;
25 and

1 WHEREAS, In California, language assistance services are currently provided in an
2 uncoordinated manner that lacks transparency and accountability, and a majority of services
3 are currently provided ad hoc by family members and friends or untrained staff; and

4 WHEREAS, California has the opportunity to meet the growing demand early on by
5 accessing millions of dollars in federal matching funds to provide medical interpretation
6 services to LEP Medi-Cal beneficiaries; and

7 WHEREAS, Professional medical interpretation services help reduce avoidable
8 medical errors and provider malpractice liability for physicians and other healthcare providers;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, a coordinated program to offer medical interpreter services will improve
11 health care outcomes for LEP Californians and help control healthcare costs that result from a
12 lack of access to preventative and primary care; now, therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors supports and encourages the passage of
14 Assembly Bill 1263; and, be it

15 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors hereby directs
16 the Clerk of the Board to send a copy of this resolution to Governor Jerry Brown, Senate
17 President pro Tempore Darrell Steinberg, and Speaker of the Assembly John A. Pérez.



City and County of San Francisco

Tails
Resolution

City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

File Number: 130870

Date Passed: September 17, 2013


Resolution urging the California State Legislature to pass Assembly Bill 1263, which creates "Medi-Cal: CommuniCal," a program that provides reliable access to language interpretation for Medi-Cal beneficiaries who are limited English proficient.

September 17, 2013 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED

Ayes: 11 - Avalos, Breed, Campos, Chiu, Cohen, Farrell, Kim, Mar, Tang, Wiener and Yee

File No. 130870

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 9/17/2013 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.


Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

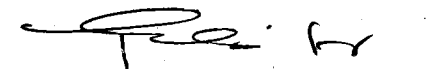
Unsigned

Mayor

September 26, 2013

Date Approved

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution, not being signed by the Mayor within the time limit as set forth in Section 3.103 of the Charter, or time waived pursuant to Board Rule 2.14.2, became effective without his approval in accordance with the provision of said Section 3.103 of the Charter or Board Rule 2.14.2.



Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board