

1 [Opposing the Repeal of Senate Bill 2.]

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3 **Resolution expressing support for expanding health care coverage for uninsured San**
4 **Franciscans and helping to ensure quality coverage for low and moderate income**
5 **workers and opposing the repeal of Senate Bill 2 and urging an affirmative vote on the**
6 **November 2nd, 2004 referendum.**

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8 WHEREAS, On September 12th of 2003, both houses of the California State
9 Legislature approved a conference report on Senate Bill 2; and

10 WHEREAS, On October 5th, 2003, Governor Gray Davis officially signed Senate Bill 2
11 into law; and,

12 WHEREAS, The California Health Interview Survey (CHIS) estimates the number of
13 uninsured in San Francisco as 92,000, and of those fully 51% (nearly 44,000) are working full
14 time with another 7,000 working part-time; and,

15 WHEREAS, SB 2 extends health coverage to up to a million now-uninsured
16 Californians, and provides security to the millions more that now get coverage through their
17 employer, but are afraid of rising health care costs or losing their coverage altogether; and,

18 WHEREAS, Starting in 2006, the bill gradually builds upon our current health system,
19 by which over 18 million Californians get health coverage through their employer by giving
20 employers with 50 or more workers the choice of buying coverage for those workers directly
21 or paying into a statewide buying pool that would work to get employers the lowest rates
22 possible and by requiring employers with 200 or more workers to provide family coverage for
23 its workers; and,

24 WHEREAS, SB 2 stipulates that workers of employers of 50 or more would be
25 guaranteed basic health benefits, comparable to the standard HMO package that includes

1 preventative care, hospital care, and prescription drugs, and paying no more than 20% of the
2 monthly premiums—or for low-income workers, not more than 5% of their income; and,

3 WHEREAS, Under SB 2, those who are insured would keep their existing coverage,
4 removing the most potent argument against reform---that they would lose benefits under any
5 reform or new system; and,

6 WHEREAS, SB 2 has been endorsed by a broad coalition of organizations including
7 AARP California, the American College of Surgeons, the American Civil Liberties Union of
8 Southern California, California ACORN, CA Alliance for Retired Americans, the California
9 Black Health Network, the California Federation of Teachers, the California Labor Federation,
10 the California Medical Association, the California Teachers Association, Gray Panthers
11 California, Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees International Union, Latino Coalition
12 for a Healthy California, National Council of Raza, the San Francisco Organizing Project,
13 United Auto Workers, Region 5, United Nurses Associations of California/Union of Health
14 Care Professionals, among others; and,

15 WHEREAS, While many employers stayed neutral during debate over SB 2 in the
16 State Assembly and Senate, major opposition has come from large employers in the retail
17 and fast-food industries, which are more likely to not provide health benefits, including
18 companies like Wal-Mart and McDonald's; and,

19 WHEREAS, Opponents successfully placed a measure on the November 2, 2004
20 ballot to repeal SB 2; now, therefore, be it,

21 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
22 supports expanding health care coverage for uninsured San Franciscans and helping to
23 ensure quality coverage for low and moderate income workers; and, be it

24 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board opposes the repeal of SB 2 and urges an
25 affirmative vote on the November 2nd, 2004 referendum.