

1 [Urging the Department of Public Health and the Health Service System to Provide Treatment
2 for HIV-related Lipodystrophy Syndrome - Supporting California State Senate Bill 221
3 (Wiener)]

4 **Resolution calling on the Department of Public Health and the Health Service system to**
5 **provide access to treatment and coverage for HIV-related lipodystrophy syndrome; and**
6 **supporting California State Senate Bill 134, authored by Senator Wiener, to require**
7 **insurance providers in California to cover medical treatment for HIV-related**
8 **lipodystrophy syndrome.**

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10 WHEREAS, San Francisco has long-been internationally recognized as a leader in the
11 treatment and care of patients with HIV/AIDS; and

12 WHEREAS, The advancement of medical science over the years has significantly
13 improved the efficacy of HIV treatment, leading to longer, healthier, and more fulfilling lives;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, Improved treatment options including antiretroviral drug therapy have
16 made HIV a long-term manageable disease, leaving patients to cope with other associated
17 diseases, including lipodystrophy syndrome; and

18 WHEREAS, Lipodystrophy syndrome is a disturbance of fat metabolism that involves
19 the abnormal deposition and distribution of fat in the body, with some areas of the body
20 missing subcutaneous fat altogether and with other areas suffering large deposits; and

21 WHEREAS, Severe lipodystrophy is also a manifestation of insulin resistance and is
22 associated with highly elevated triglyceride levels and fatty liver disease; and

23 WHEREAS, Lipodystrophy syndrome creates visible disfiguring and stigmatizing
24 morphological changes in body shape and appearance, often including a fat pad on the neck
25 (colloquially called “buffalo hump”), fat accumulation around the front of the neck and under

1 the chin (colloquially called “horse collar”), increased abdominal girth, and abnormal fat loss in
2 the nasolabial folds of the face as well as in the limbs; and

3 WHEREAS, In addition to the physical impacts, lipodystrophy also causes severe
4 psychological harm to people with HIV; and

5 WHEREAS, Although lipodystrophy syndrome is clearly associated with HIV and
6 inexpensive and effective medical treatments currently exist, insurers routinely deny claims for
7 treatment on the basis that they are cosmetic and not medically necessary; and

8 WHEREAS, In 2016, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts became the first State in
9 the nation to require that public and private insurance providers cover medical treatments for
10 HIV-associated lipodystrophy; and

11 WHEREAS, Most insurance and medical care providers in California, including private
12 carriers and Medi-Cal, consider HIV-related lipodystrophy as a cosmetic issue and therefore
13 do not provide coverage for treatment; and

14 WHEREAS, Healthy San Francisco and the San Francisco Health Service System do
15 not cover, or provide access to treatment, for HIV related lipodystrophy; and

16 WHEREAS, California State Senator Wiener has introduced Senate Bill 221, which
17 would mandate that treatment for HIV-related lipodystrophy syndrome be covered in California
18 by both public and private insurance providers; now, therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors, consistent with our shared values of being
20 a world-leader in the treatment and care of HIV/AIDS patients and for the continued advocacy
21 on their behalf, strongly urges the Department of Public Health to take the necessary steps to
22 ensure that patients enrolled in Healthy San Francisco who suffer from HIV-related
23 lipodystrophy are provided with access to care and that the San Francisco Health Service
24 System do the same; and, be it

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1 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors strongly supports California
2 Senate Bill 221 (Wiener); and, be it

3 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors requests that the Clerk of the
4 Board transmit the final approved resolution to the State Legislature, to the Department of
5 Public Health, and to the San Francisco Health Service System.

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