

1 [Urging Comcast to advertise in support of medical marijuana.]

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3 **Resolution urging Comcast to accept political advertising in support of medical**  
4 **marijuana.**

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6 WHEREAS, In 1996 the people of California voted to pass Proposition 215, permitting  
7 seriously ill people to use marijuana for medical purposes without criminal penalty; and,

8 WHEREAS, The people of San Francisco have expressed overwhelming support  
9 for legal protection for medical marijuana patients; and,

10 WHEREAS, Whereas thousands of San Franciscans have successfully used medical  
11 Marijuana with their physicians' recommendation to combat the pain and nausea caused by  
12 illnesses such as cancer, multiple sclerosis and HIV/AIDS; and,

13 WHEREAS, A large number of medical and public health organizations, including the  
14 American Academy of Family Physicians, the American Nurses Association, the American  
15 Public Health Association and the American Academy of HIV Medicine have expressed  
16 support for legal protection for medical marijuana patients; and,

17 WHEREAS, Federal law continues to criminalize medical marijuana patients and their  
18 caregivers, and federal agents have raided, harassed and arrested such individuals both  
19 within San Francisco and throughout California; and,

20 WHEREAS, According to the San Francisco Department of Health, such raids have at  
21 times left thousands of seriously ill San Franciscans without safe and reliable access to  
22 medicine they need; and,

23 WHEREAS, Whereas the state of federal policy regarding medical marijuana is thus an  
24 important issue in the 2004 presidential election and a matter of great concern to San  
25 Francisco; and,

1 WHEREAS, Comcast cable television in New Hampshire has refused to sell airtime to  
2 an organization, the Marijuana Policy Project Political Fund, seeking to educate primary voters  
3 about the presidential candidates' positions on medical marijuana, refusing the proposed  
4 Commercial without even reviewing it; and,

5 WHEREAS, Comcast has told those attempting to purchase such airtime that it is  
6 against company policy to sell airtime for advertising in support of medical marijuana or  
7 advocating changes in U.S. drug laws; and,

8 WHEREAS, Such actions by Comcast, the nation's largest cable television provider  
9 and the sole cable television provider in San Francisco, threaten to seriously impede public  
10 debate on this issue of national importance, and by so doing increase the likelihood that San  
11 Franciscans using medical marijuana will continue to face the possibility of federal arrest and  
12 prosecution; and, now, therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco  
14 does hereby urge Comcast to permit supporters of legal protection for medical marijuana  
15 patients to purchase airtime to present their arguments to the public, and to remove any  
16 restrictive policies that bar advertising that supports such protection or advocates changes in  
17 federal anti-drug laws.