1	[World Prematurity Awareness Day - November 17, 2025]
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3	Resolution declaring November 17, 2025, as World Prematurity Awareness Day in the
4	City and County of San Francisco; and urging interagency efforts to close gaps in birth
5	disparities.
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7	WHEREAS, "World Prematurity Day" represents an international health campaign that
8	urges for an increase in investments to prevent preterm births and support birth givers and
9	babies with accessible, lifesaving health care; and
10	WHEREAS, The health campaign raises awareness about childbirth occurring before
11	37 completed weeks of pregnancy and the preventable complications that make it a leading
12	cause of death among children under five; and
13	WHEREAS, Babies born prematurely are more susceptible to difficulty breathing,
14	infections, hypothermia, long-term disabilities, and chronic illnesses; in addition, very preterm
15	babies require 10 times more services which amount to an additional \$220,000 in hospital
16	costs; and
17	WHEREAS, In California, Black, Pacific Islander, Native American, and Latiné pregnant
18	people experience disproportionately higher rates of preterm births than their White
19	counterparts; and
20	WHEREAS, In San Francisco, 1 in every 12 babies is born preterm and San Francisco
21	has the worst birth disparities in California, with Black pregnant people delivering preterm 2.3
22	times more than White pregnant people; and
23	WHEREAS, San Francisco spent less than 46% of its allocated budget for the Black
24	Infant Health Initiative from 2021-2024; and
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1	WHEREAS, Researchers and doctors emphasized that improved screening methods
2	are needed to identify individuals at risk of preterm birth and early interventions to prevent the
3	onset of premature labor; and
4	WHEREAS, Immediate action and increased investments in stronger, more resilient
5	health systems are imperative to saving lives, improving health, and promoting the rights and
6	opportunities of women and children; and
7	WHEREAS, Community-based health care ensures more equitable access to pre- and
8	post-natal care, childhood vaccinations, assisted births, nutrition, and family planning to
9	combat the underfunding of national health care systems and a lack of trained maternal health
10	care workers; and
11	WHEREAS, No birth giver should face preventable life-threatening risks during
12	childbirth when medical professionals possess the knowledge and resources to address
13	complications that can result in fatalities for the parent or child; and
14	WHEREAS, California passed the Dignity in Pregnancy and Childbirth Act to reduce
15	implicit bias and to improve care for pregnant people, including those with preterm births; now
16	therefore, be it
17	RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
18	declare November 17, 2025, as "World Prematurity Awareness Day" and urge the Departmen
19	of Public Health to fully commit to addressing the inequities in birth outcomes with adequate
20	staffing, sufficient oversight, community engagement, transparency in funding; and concrete
21	timelines for measurable outcomes; and, be it
22	FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges interagency coordination
23	and action between Department of Public Health, Department of Early Childhood, Human
24	Services Agency, Department of Children, Youth, and Their Families, Human Rights

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1	Commission, and Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development to prioritize and to
2	align collectively to decrease the preterm birth rate; and, be it
3	FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors commends the work of the
4	Black Infant Health Initiative, birth doulas, midwives, and health care workers that devote their
5	time to saving the lives of birth givers and their newborn babies; and, be it
6	FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors encourages distribution of
7	federal government financial aid during pregnancy as studies found this reduces preterm birth
8	and low birth weight; and, be it
9	FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board ensures full transparency of spending by the
10	San Francisco Department of Public Health and hospitals out of compliance with the 2019
11	Dignity in Pregnancy and Childbirth Act; and, be it
12	FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors directs the Clerk of the Board
13	to transmit copies of this Resolution to the Department of Public Health, Department of Early
14	Childhood, Human Services Agency, Department of Children, Youth, and Their Families,
15	Human Rights Commission, and Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development.
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