

1 [Supporting Congressman Jimmy Gomez and Senator Patty Murray’s Jeanette Acosta Invest
2 in Women’s Health Act of 2021]

3 **Resolution supporting Congressman Jimmy Gomez (CA-34) and Senator Patty**
4 **Murray’s (D-WA), *Jeanette Acosta Invest in Women’s Health Act of 2021* legislation that**
5 **would increase availability of preventive, life-saving cancer screenings by safety net**
6 **and reproductive health care providers.**

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8 WHEREAS, The American Cancer Society estimates that in 2021 there will be
9 approximately 386,660 new cases of breast, uterine, ovarian, and cervical cancer; and

10 WHEREAS, Due to centuries of systemic racism, women of color in the U.S. face
11 barriers to accessing quality health care; these barriers have devastating consequences,
12 including higher rates of certain cancers, delayed diagnoses and treatment, and increased
13 mortality rates; and

14 WHEREAS, In San Francisco County, the Greater Bay Area Cancer Registry has a
15 mortality rate in breast cancer of 11.9 in Hispanic Women per 100,000; and

16 WHEREAS, In San Francisco County, Black Woman with breast cancer have a
17 mortality rate of 25.9 per 100,000; and

18 WHEREAS, Cervical cancer is highly preventable and treatable, and if caught early,
19 the five-year survival rate is over 90 percent; unfortunately, over 4,000 women in the United
20 States die from the disease each year, and women of color and low-income women are
21 disproportionately impacted; and

22 WHEREAS, Black women and other women of color die at higher rates from cervical
23 cancer than white women; and

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25

1 WHEREAS, White women are more likely to be diagnosed with breast cancer, Black
2 women are more likely to die from the disease; and

3 WHEREAS, The COVID-19 pandemic has made it harder for women to access
4 preventative health services due to changes in employment, loss of insurance, reduced in-
5 person care; and

6 WHEREAS, 29% of white woman report that the pandemic has made it harder to
7 access reproductive health care, 38% of Black women, and 45% of Hispanic women reported
8 an increase in barrier to these preventative health screenings; and

9 WHEREAS, Of Black women, 32% were concerned with the costs of the test, 29%
10 feared the test, 40% were afraid of the result, and 27% did not think they were at risk; and

11 WHEREAS, Of Hispanic women, 42% were concerned with the costs of the
12 preventative health screenings, 29% feared the screenings, 28% feared the results, and 32%
13 did not think they were at risks; and

14 WHEREAS, Planned Parenthood and other healthcare providers engaged in sexual
15 and reproductive healthcare provide critical cancer screenings, education, and referrals to
16 patients; from October 2018 to September 2019, Planned Parenthood health centers across
17 the country provided more than 598,000 services to prevent and screen for cancer; and

18 WHEREAS, Jeanette Acosta – a University of California Hastings College (UC
19 Hastings) of the Law graduate and native of California’s 34th Congressional District – was a
20 fierce women’s health advocate, a Fulbright Scholar, a former congressional staffer, and a
21 State Vote Director in the President Obama re-election campaign who In 2017, lost her battle
22 with cervical cancer at the age of 32; and

23 WHEREAS, At UC Hastings, Ms. Acosta was dedicated and fought for civil rights,
24 women’s rights, educational equity for Latinos, undocumented immigrant rights, and Mexican
25 farmworkers’ rights; and

1 WHEREAS, As a Tony Patino Fellow, Ms. Acosta was the co-chair of La Raza Law
2 Students Association and Executive Notes Editor of the Hastings Constitutional Law
3 Quarterly, and earned the prestigious recognition of Student of the Year Award at UC
4 Hastings in 2016 for her scholarly dedication, social justice advocacy, and leadership at the
5 school; and

6 WHEREAS, After her diagnosis, she dedicated her work to advocate for Black and
7 Hispanic women who died from a preventable disease; and

8 WHEREAS, The Jeanette Acosta Invest in Women’s Health Act of 2021 is a bill that
9 highlights and breaks down barriers facing low-income, Latina, Black, and Hispanic women;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, Several reproductive health organizations including: Planned Parenthood
12 Federation of America, Black Women’s Health Imperative, In Our Own Voice: National Black
13 Women's Reproductive Justice Agenda, American College of Obstetricians and
14 Gynecologists, Physicians for Reproductive Health, National Family Planning & Reproductive
15 Health Association, National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum supports the Jeanette
16 Acosta Invest in Women’s Health Act of 2021 introduced by Congressman Jimmy Gomez and
17 U.S Senator Patty Murray; and

18 WHEREAS, This legislation will increase access to co-testing for HPV and cervical
19 cancer for those at high risk of cervical cancer, especially those most vulnerable such as,
20 Black, Hispanic, and Latina women; and

21 WHEREAS, This legislation would create new demonstration grant and pilot programs
22 to expand access to preventive services and help train health practitioners, especially in
23 treating rural and underserved communities, low-income communities, and communities of
24 color; and

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1 WHEREAS, In the demonstration program, this legislation would include implicit bias,
2 cultural competency, and patient-centered communication training covering the ways in which
3 structural racism and discrimination manifest within the medical field; and

4 WHEREAS, This legislation will initiate a new study designed to understand and
5 address care for women including a state analysis, cost estimates for federal dollar savings,
6 and recommendations; now, therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, That supporting this bill will help prevent the high rates of death among
8 women of color through education, preventive screening, and early detection of cervical and
9 breast cancer and that we must support policies that break down barriers to preventive health
10 care, and, be it

11 RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco support the Jeanette Acosta
12 Invest in Women’s Health Act of 2021, which promotes and invests in the health and wellness
13 of women; and, be it

14 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of the City and
15 County of San Francisco distribute this Resolution to San Francisco’s State Legislative
16 Delegation and to California Governor Gavin Newsom.