

1 [Resolution endorsing AB 364]

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3 **Resolution endorsing Assembly Bill 364: the State of California's effort to ensure that**
4 **all patients in hospitals, nursing homes and supervised nursing facilities are informed**
5 **of their legal rights related to advocacy and patients rights services, as well as**
6 **information regarding health and supportive services following hospitalization.**

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8 WHEREAS, Almost one-quarter of San Francisco's population is 55 years and older
9 and this sector of the population is projected to increase by nearly 50% by 2010; and,

10 WHEREAS, There are almost 50,000 seniors aged 75 years and older living in San
11 Francisco and approximately 16,500 of them residing alone. Additionally, many thousands of
12 other seniors have elderly and/or disabled companions or family members who work and thus
13 are not available to give them the care they require; and,

14 WHEREAS, Seniors and people with disabilities may be discharged from San
15 Francisco hospitals and nursing homes unable to care for themselves and are without
16 adequate assistance at home; and,

17 WHEREAS, Seniors and people with disabilities in such circumstances confront life-
18 threatening situations and risk repeated hospitalization and institutionalization; and,

19 WHEREAS, Homeless seniors and people with disabilities are particularly vulnerable
20 when they are discharged from hospitals and nursing homes often frail, not ambulatory,
21 and/or are unable to care for themselves; and,

22 WHEREAS, In the Spring of 2001, the Board of Supervisors passed Resolution 10-1
23 establishing a Hospital and Nursing Home Discharge Planning Task Force; and,

24 WHEREAS, In May 2001, the Board of Supervisors adopted, and the Mayor approved,
25 Resolution 386-01, which approved the 18 members of the Hospital and Nursing Home

1 Discharge Planning Task Force, all of whom are representative of the diversity of San
2 Francisco and the County; and,

3 WHEREAS, The Task Force's role was to make policy recommendations to the Mayor
4 and Board of Supervisors and to promote coordination among relevant agencies that would
5 improve hospital discharge practices for people with disabilities and seniors; and,

6 WHEREAS, in January 2004 the Board of Supervisors passed Resolution 88-04,
7 adopting the findings from the Hospital and Nursing Home Discharge Planning Task Force's
8 Final Report as submitted; and,

9 WHEREAS, Resolution 88-04 urges key departments, including, but not limited to, the
10 Department of Aging and Adult Services, Department of Human Services and Department of
11 Public Health in consultation with the Hospital and Nursing Home Task Force, San Francisco
12 Hospital Council and the Healthcare Action Team (HAT) to develop a plan of implementation
13 to improve discharge planning in the City and County of San Francisco based upon the
14 recommendations in the Task Force Report; and,

15 WHEREAS, regulations regarding hospitals are set by the California Health and Safety
16 Code, policy regulations regarding discharge practices are dictated by this code; and,

17 WHEREAS, The California Department of Health Services Licensing and Certification
18 is responsible for insuring that Hospitals comply with existing regulations; and,

19 WHEREAS, California State Assembly Bill AB 2745, requires hospitals to hold regional
20 meetings whereby hospital associations develop a document based on these regional
21 meetings to establish protocols for the discharge of homeless patients therefore, be it

22 RESOLVED, that the San Francisco Board of Supervisors hereby endorses and
23 supports the California State Legislature's efforts to enact AB 364 that would mandate
24 statewide requirements for hospital discharge policy, and, be it

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1 FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors urges the California State
2 Legislature to use models henceforth and heretofore identified as Best Practices in
3 determining the appropriate policy to enact, and, be it

4 FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors is hereby directed
5 to forward this resolution to the Speaker of the Assembly and President Pro Tem of the
6 Senate of the California State Legislature.

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