

1 [Condemning Anti-Abortion Harassment in San Francisco]

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3 **Resolution condemning anti-abortion harassment in San Francisco and affirming**
4 **that the City and County of San Francisco has and will continue to stand in**
5 **solidarity with health care providers and patients.**

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7 WHEREAS, There are approximately 10 reproductive health care centers that
8 operate in the City and County of San Francisco; and

9 WHEREAS, Reproductive health care centers provide essential health care
10 services, especially for more vulnerable populations whose access to care is otherwise
11 limited; and

12 WHEREAS, In March of 2022, a group of anti-abortion protesters invaded the
13 Women’s Options Center at San Francisco General Hospital and were later charged
14 with felony stalking and misdemeanors for obstructing freedom to access a clinic,
15 vandalism, trespassing and other offenses; and

16 WHEREAS, Planned Parenthood Northern California (PPNorCal) has
17 experienced a documented increase in protester activity since September 2023; and

18 WHEREAS, PPNorCal’s San Francisco location provides critical reproductive
19 health care services including: Abortion Services; Birth Control; HIV Testing; PrEP and
20 PEP; Emergency Contraception; Pregnancy Testing & Services; STI Testing;
21 Vasectomies; Treatment & Vaccines; and Gender Affirming Hormone Therapy; and

22 WHEREAS, In PPNorCal’s 2023 Fiscal Year (July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023) the
23 San Francisco Health Center had 16,750 patient encounters; they conducted 35,921
24 STI tests and treatments, and managed 4,934 contraception visits, 1,947 emergency
25 contraception visits, and 6,464 pregnancy tests; and

1 WHEREAS, Organized protests and rallies, such as “40 Days for Life” and the
2 “March for Life ” incite opportunities for extremists to harass, intimidate, and threaten
3 bodily harm to health care providers and patients; and

4 WHEREAS, The “40 Days for Life” organizers have identified PPNorCal’s San
5 Francisco Health Center as a “vigil” location for their winter campaign beginning on
6 Wednesday, February 14, 2024; and

7 WHEREAS, In 1993, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors adopted Police
8 Code, Article 43, establishing that “Maintaining access to reproductive health care
9 services is a matter of critical importance not only to individuals, but also to the health,
10 safety, and welfare of all residents of the City” and finding the law “necessary to
11 promote the full exercise of the right to privacy by patients seeking vital reproductive
12 health care services and is also necessary to maintain public health, safety, and welfare
13 within the City;” and

14 WHEREAS, In 1994, the United States Congress enacted the “Freedom of
15 Access to Clinical Entrances” (FACE) Act, prohibiting violent, threatening, damaging
16 and obstructive conduct intended to injure, intimidate, or interfere with the right to seek,
17 obtain, or provide reproductive health services; and

18 WHEREAS, In 2022, voters in California approved Proposition 1, an amendment
19 to the state constitution that “the state shall not deny or interfere with an individual's
20 reproductive freedom in their most intimate decisions, which includes their fundamental
21 right to choose to have an abortion and their fundamental right to choose or refuse
22 contraceptives;” and

23 WHEREAS, In a 2022 report, the National Abortion Federation (“NAF”) found that
24 abortion providers reported a significant increase in violence and disruption against
25

1 staff; stalking of staff and patients rose 229% from 2021 to 2022 and burglary of health
2 centers rose 231% from 2021 to 2022; and

3 WHEREAS, The report noted that there has been a “sharp increase in violence
4 and disruption in states that are protective of abortion rights”, assault and battery
5 increased by 29% from 2021 to 2022, burglaries increased by 100% from 2021 to 2022,
6 and stalking increased by 913% from 2021 to 2022; and

7 WHEREAS, The Security Director of NAF has also asserted that “The threat of
8 violence against abortion providers remains on the rise and is extremely concerning. In
9 addition to an increase in major incidents, extremists are becoming more organized; for
10 example, we’re seeing them target clinics on days when they know they will have more
11 patients, are less staffed, or have less security;” and

12 WHEREAS, In 2021, the California Legislature enacted Assembly Bill No. 1356,
13 which declared in part that, “[a]cts of violence and harassment against abortion
14 providers have persisted in the decades since Roe v. Wade, 410 U.S. 113 (1973), and
15 reproductive health centers are seeing an increase in threats and security incidents, as
16 existing laws have not sufficiently deterred anti-abortion extremists;” the bill ensures
17 “that people who need access to family planning and other sexual and reproductive
18 health care services can do so confidentially and in a timely manner without
19 harassment, threats, or fear of bodily harm;” and

20 WHEREAS, On June 7, 2022, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security
21 (“DHS”) issued a National Terrorism Advisory System bulletin noting that “[g]iven a high-
22 profile U.S. Supreme Court case about abortion rights, individuals who advocate both
23 for and against abortion have, on public forums, encouraged violence, including against
24 reproductive healthcare personnel facilities, as well as those with opposing ideologies;”
25 and

1 WHEREAS, The U.S. Department of Justice reported two federal indictments in
2 2023 and seven federal criminal indictments in 2022 that involved violence or other
3 conduct directed at reproductive health care providers; and

4 WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors unanimously declared via Resolution No.
5 201-22, San Francisco to be a champion of reproductive freedom and justice; and

6 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Board of Supervisors recognizes that the right to
7 free speech must be upheld but that it should not come at the cost of impeding a
8 person's right to seek health care; now, therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges the San
10 Francisco Police Department and the City Attorney's Office to fully implement and
11 enforce Article 43 of the law; and, be it

12 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges the
13 San Francisco Police Department to, where appropriate, coordinate responses with the
14 local Federal Bureau of Investigation; and, be it

15 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors
16 unequivocally condemns all forms of harassment against individuals seeking
17 reproductive health care; and, be it

18 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco has and will
19 continue to stand in solidarity with health care providers and patients who have the right
20 to provide and seek care without fear of harassment, threat of intimidation, or fear of
21 bodily harm.

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