

1 [Supporting AB241]

2 **URGING GOVERNOR GRAY DAVIS, AS WELL AS THE CALIFORNIA SENATE AND**
3 **ASSEMBLY, TO SUPPORT ASSEMBLY BILL 241 AUTHORED BY DION ARONER WHICH**
4 **PROHIBITS THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES FROM**
5 **APPROVING THE DOWNGRADE OR CLOSURE OF AN URBAN HOSPITAL'S**
6 **EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT IF THE COUNTY'S LOCAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL**
7 **SERVICES AGENCY DEEMS THE CLOSURE OR DOWNSIZING TO BE DETRIMENTAL TO**
8 **HEALTH, SAFETY AND OVERALL INTEREST OF THE COMMUNITY.**

9 WHEREAS, California has lost 19 emergency rooms since 1997 with Los Angeles
10 County losing 20% of its emergency wards and Alameda County losing 35% of its hospitals
11 and emergency beds; and

12 WHEREAS, San Francisco's Mount Zion Hospital, with a tradition over a century of
13 treating minority, indigent and marginalized populations, had to close its emergency ward at
14 the end of 1999 for fiscal reasons; and

15 WHEREAS, Emergency departments of hospitals have become the primary source of
16 routine care for millions of poor, indigent and uninsured citizens; and

17 WHEREAS, The inability to pay and the lack of access to transportation often force the
18 poor to seek medical care at when illness or disease has progressed to point where the
19 patient can no longer properly function, and

20 WHEREAS, Cuts in federal and state medical reimbursements as well as the low
21 amount of reimbursement paid out by private managed care companies have impelled many
22 hospitals to close and downgrade its emergency wards; and

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Supervisors Ammiano, Bierman, Katz

1 WHEREAS, Emergency ward closures forces other existing hospitals to go on
2 diversion, thus creating overcrowding, long waiting lines, chronically overworked staff, low staff
3 morale and increasing the number of preventable deaths; and

4 WHEREAS; The number of deaths of people waiting to be treated in emergency rooms
5 are steadily increasing; and

6 WHEREAS; The increasing closures and downsizing of emergency wards will greatly
7 imperil the safety and health of the citizens of San Francisco during a major disaster; and

8 WHEREAS, Assembly Bill 421, authored by Assemblywoman Dion Aroner would
9 prohibit the State Department of Health Services (DHS) from approving a closure or
10 downgrade of an emergency ward if the County's Local Emergency Medical Services Agency
11 (LEMSA) deem that such a closure or downsizing would be detrimental to the health and
12 safety of the community; and

13 WHEREAS; However, AB241 would exempt hospitals located in rural areas as well as
14 those hospitals in which the DHS finds that the prohibition of closure or downsizing might
15 imperil its financial stability; and

16 WHEREAS; AB241 would also allow hospitals to appeal any decision rendered by
17 DHS; and

18 WHEREAS, It is in the interests of the City and County of San Francisco to maintain
19 and preserve the number of available emergency wards in order to safeguard the health and
20 safety of its citizens ; now, therefore, be it

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RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco hereby urges Governor Gray Davis as well as the California Senate and Assembly to support Assembly Bill 421 authored by Assemblywoman Dion Aroner which prohibits the State Department of Health Services from approving the downgrade or closure of an urban hospital's emergency department if the County's Local Emergency Medical Services Agency deems the closure or downsizing to be detrimental to health, safety and overall interest of the community; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors request the Clerk of the Board send a copy of this resolution to Governor Davis as well as the California Senate and Assembly upon the passage of this resolution.

SUPERVISORS AMMIANO



City and County of San Francisco

City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

Tails Resolution

File Number: 000872

Date Passed:

Resolution urging Governor Gray Davis, as well as the California Senate and Assembly, to support Assembly Bill 241 authored by Dion Aroner which prohibits the California Department of Health Services from approving the downgrade or closure of an urban hospital's emergency department if the county's Local Emergency Medical Services Agency deems the closure or downsizing to be detrimental to health, safety and overall interest of the community.

May 15, 2000 Board of Supervisors — ADOPTED

Ayes: 8 - Ammiano, Becerril, Bierman, Brown, Katz, Leno, Yaki, Yee
Absent: 3 - Kaufman, Newsom, Teng

File No. 000872

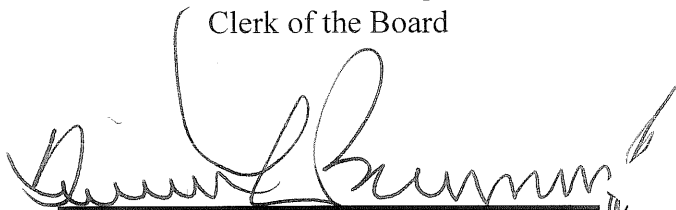
I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on May 15, 2000 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.



Gloria L. Young
Clerk of the Board

MAY 26 2000

Date Approved



Mayor Willie L. Brown Jr.