

[Supporting a Strong, Independent Department of Veterans Affairs]

Resolution supporting a strong, independent Department of Veterans Affairs and opposing privatization.

WHEREAS, The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) provides integrated, specialized, and trauma-informed healthcare uniquely designed to meet the needs of veterans; and

WHEREAS, A strong, fully staffed VA healthcare system benefits not only veterans but also the broader healthcare ecosystem through training, emergency preparedness, and specialized clinical expertise; and

WHEREAS, According to a new report by the United States Senate Veterans Affairs Committee, the VA cut 40,000 employees in 2025, including over 150 positions at the San Francisco VA Health Care System (SFVAHCS), leading to understaffing, impacting quality and timeliness of care, and overburdening remaining healthcare staff; and

WHEREAS, In Minneapolis, where a VA Intensive Care Unit, Alex Pretti, was murdered by Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agents, his colleagues are unable to take personal bereavement leave because of understaffing; and

WHEREAS, Ongoing efforts to privatize and outsource VA healthcare divert public resources to for-profit providers, undermine continuity of care, and hollow out internal VA capacity all while shifting the burden of care onto already-strained local hospitals, emergency rooms, public health systems and community clinics; and

WHEREAS, Over 300,000 Veterans residing in San Francisco and the Bay Area rely on the VA for timely, high-quality care that cannot be easily replicated in fragmented private systems; and

1 WHEREAS, Privatization of the VA would send thousands of vulnerable veterans with
2 complex conditions will be funneled into our already stressed for-profit health systems; and

3 WHEREAS, The VA serves as one of the Country's top training hospitals, with over
4 70% of US physicians, 50% of US psychologists doing training at the VA, the VA also has the
5 nation's largest clinical social work training program, and trains thousands of nurses yearly,
6 privatization will eliminate this training program; and

7 WHEREAS, VA research and innovation benefits everyone, not just veterans; now,
8 therefore, be it

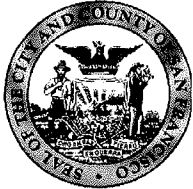
9 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors affirms its support for a
10 strong, publicly funded, and publicly operated VA healthcare system; and be it

11 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors opposes
12 policies that privatize, outsource, or otherwise weaken VA healthcare services, staffing, or
13 infrastructure; and be it

14 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors calls on
15 Congress and the Department of Veterans Affairs to fully fund, staff, and strengthen the VA's
16 internal capacity to deliver care directly to veterans; and be it

17 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors recognizes VA
18 healthcare workers and their unions as essential partners in delivering high-quality veteran
19 care; and be it

20 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors hereby directs
21 the Clerk of the Board to transmit copies of this resolution to the San Francisco congressional
22 delegation, and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.



City and County of San Francisco

Tails Resolution

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

File Number: 260135

Date Passed: February 24, 2026

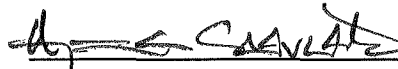
Resolution supporting a strong, independent Department of Veterans Affairs and opposing privatization.

February 24, 2026 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED

Ayes: 11 - Chan, Chen, Dorsey, Fielder, Mahmood, Mandelman, Melgar, Sauter, Sherrill, Walton and Wong

File No. 260135

**I hereby certify that the foregoing
Resolution was ADOPTED on 2/24/2026 by
the Board of Supervisors of the City and
County of San Francisco.**



Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

Unsigned

Daniel Lurie
Mayor

3-6-2026

Date Approved

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution, not being signed by the Mayor within the time limit as set forth in Section 3.103 of the Charter, or time waived pursuant to Board Rule 2.14.2, became effective without his approval in accordance with the provision of said Section 3.103 of the Charter or Board Rule 2.14.2.



Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

3-6-2026

Date