

1 [President Obama's Principles for National Health Care Reform.]

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3 **Resolution supporting President Obama's Principles for National Health Care Reform.**

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5 WHEREAS, Cities are on the frontlines of the healthcare crisis with high rates of
6 uninsurance and underinsurance and rapidly escalating costs affecting local residents,
7 businesses, and workers; and,

8 WHEREAS, City governments spend billions of dollars to provide health coverage to
9 employees, dependents, and retirees, and rising health costs affect cities' ability to provide
10 other city services; and,

11 WHEREAS, Cities face serious health workforce shortages, particularly among primary
12 care professionals in low-income communities; and,

13 WHEREAS, Many families and individuals served by city programs have unmet health
14 and mental health needs, complicating efforts to provide effective services; and,

15 WHEREAS, City public health agencies receive limited federal and state support
16 despite the cost-effectiveness of public health strategies in preventing and addressing chronic
17 diseases; and,

18 WHEREAS, Nearly 46 million Americans lack health insurance and are less likely than
19 their insured counterparts to receive recommended preventive and screening services, or
20 medicines and treatments that meet the professional standard, and are more likely to die
21 prematurely; and,

22 WHEREAS, Nearly 9 million children lack health insurance coverage and therefore
23 have fewer well-child visits, worse access to specialists, fewer immunizations and more visits
24 to the emergency room than children with health coverage; and,

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1 WHEREAS, Millions more Americans are underinsured and at risk of financial ruin if
2 they experience a major illness; and,

3 WHEREAS, Health care costs, and employment-based health insurance premiums in
4 particular, have increased at rates much higher than inflation or wage growth for the last
5 decade; and,

6 WHEREAS, Health costs threaten the global competitiveness of American businesses;
7 and,

8 WHEREAS, Our current health care system focuses on treating disease rather than
9 preventing it or promoting wellness; and,

10 WHEREAS, There are large disparities in health status and health outcomes based on
11 race, ethnicity, and physical ability, and many health care providers do not offer adequate
12 service to patients with limited English proficiency or limited physical or mental ability; and,

13 WHEREAS, Chronic diseases pose the greatest challenge to our health care system
14 and our health care delivery system is not well-organized to prevent and treat them; and,

15 WHEREAS, Public hospitals and clinics, community health centers, and other safety
16 net providers provide care to millions of underserved individuals regardless of income, health
17 coverage, or immigration status; and,

18 WHEREAS, Many cities have developed innovative programs to expand access to
19 quality health care, make health services more affordable, and improve health care quality
20 while acknowledging that any comprehensive reform must be led by the federal government;
21 and,

22 WHEREAS, Leaders in both political parties serving in Congress and the White House
23 have called for enactment of comprehensive health care reform; and,

24 WHEREAS, The President has pledged enactment of comprehensive reform this year,
25 which includes: reducing long-term growth of health care costs for businesses and

1 government; protecting families from bankruptcy or debt because of health care costs;
2 guaranteeing choice of doctors and health plans – including a public plan; investing in
3 prevention and wellness; improving patient safety and quality of care; assuring affordable,
4 quality health coverage for all Americans; maintaining coverage when someone changes or
5 loses a job; and ending barriers to coverage for people with pre-existing medical conditions;
6 and,

7 WHEREAS, Substantial progress is being made in Congress to engage stakeholders
8 and craft comprehensive reform; and,

9 WHEREAS, Local governments, as representatives of their residents, as employers, as
10 health care providers and as partners to small and large businesses who struggle with health
11 care costs, should have their voices heard in the crafting of comprehensive reform proposals;
12 now, therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco supports and calls for the
14 immediate enactment of the Administration's health care reform principles and agrees that
15 comprehensive reform should reduce long-term growth of health care costs for businesses
16 and government; protect families from bankruptcy or debt because of health care costs;
17 guarantee choice of doctors and health plans including a public option; invest in prevention
18 and wellness; improve patient safety and quality of care; assure affordable, quality health
19 coverage for all Americans; maintain coverage when someone changes or loses a job; and
20 end barriers to coverage for people with pre-existing medical conditions; and, be it

21 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco urges Congress to
22 support public hospitals and other providers in the health care safety net so that those who fall
23 through the cracks of expanded health coverage may still receive care; so that surge capacity
24 is available in case of public health emergencies; and so that the cultural competencies

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1 achieved by providers serving diverse populations are preserved and enhanced in a reformed
2 health care system; and, be it

3 FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the
4 White House.

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