

1 [URGING SAN FRANCISCO'S CALIFORNIA AND FEDERAL LEGISLATORS TO  
2 CONTINUE EFFORTS TO HALT MEDICAID AND MEDICARE REDUCTIONS THAT  
3 NEGATIVELY IMPACT SAFETY NET PROVIDERS, TO INCREASE REIMBURSEMENTS  
4 FOR MEDICAID SERVICES AND TO INCREASE ELIGIBILITY FOR PUBLICLY FUNDED  
5 HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAMS]

6  
7 WHEREAS, Even during California's booming economic time, many  
8 residents do not have ready access to health care services and  
9 providers are facing reduced government funding for services; and

10 WHEREAS, San Francisco's health care system is strained by  
11 reductions in federal funds for health care services, increasing  
12 numbers of uninsured residents, growing costs of providing treatment  
13 and closure of health facilities; and

14 WHEREAS, The health care safety net (financed through direct and  
15 indirect subsidies) has served as the default system for caring for  
16 many of the nation's uninsured and vulnerable populations; and

17 WHEREAS, California's per patient Medicaid expenditures are the  
18 fourth lowest in the country; and

19 WHEREAS, The Balanced Budget Act of 1997 achieved federal  
20 savings by reducing Medicaid, Medicare, graduate medical education  
21 and outpatient cost-based reimbursement to providers and went beyond  
22 the cuts needed to balance the federal budget; and

23 WHEREAS, California hospitals will lose approximately \$5.2  
24 billion in Medicare over a five year period (from 1998 - 2003) and  
25 the Health Care Financing Administration is proposing to issue

1 regulations which would result in further reductions in Medicaid  
2 reimbursement; and

3 WHEREAS, San Francisco General Hospital provides services to all  
4 San Franciscans irrespective of insurance status, income and  
5 immigration status or other social factors and provides these  
6 services free of charge or at nominal charge according to an income-  
7 based sliding scale billing policy; and

8 WHEREAS, 50% of the patients at San Francisco General Hospital  
9 are uninsured, (40% of inpatients and 60% of outpatients); and

10 WHEREAS, In the absence of state and federal revenues supporting  
11 safety net providers, the City and County faces the prospect of  
12 critical reductions in health care services provided by the  
13 Department of Public Health and the exposure to a much greater burden  
14 of health care costs for uninsured residents; and

15 WHEREAS, Opportunities to address these issues include: (1)  
16 halting the funding cuts in the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 and (2)  
17 increasing health care coverage in publicly funded programs; and

18 WHEREAS, Federal Senate Bill 2308 (Medicaid Safety Net Hospital  
19 Act of the 2000) and Senate Bill 2299 (Medicaid Disproportionate  
20 Share Hospital Preservation Act of 2000), both co-authored by Senator  
21 Dianne Feinstein, would freeze or decrease reductions to the Medicaid  
22 program thereby mitigating the significant financial burden on safety  
23 net providers; and

24 WHEREAS, The federal Medi-Kids Health Insurance Act of 2000  
25 would automatically enroll every child at birth into a new,  
comprehensive federal safety net health insurance program beginning

**SUPERVISOR BECERRIL**  
**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

1 in 2002 and would provide benefits similar to those currently  
2 available to children under Medicaid; and

3 WHEREAS, The Governor's 2000-01 budget increases some Medi-Cal  
4 providers rates (an average of 15% for physicians, 7% for dentists,  
5 10% for community clinics and 39% for California Children's Services)  
6 to ensure continued access to services; now, therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco urges San  
8 Francisco's California and federal legislators to continue efforts to  
9 halt Medicaid and Medicare reductions that negatively impact safety  
10 net providers, to increase reimbursements for Medicaid services and  
11 to increase eligibility for publicly funded health insurance  
12 programs; and, be it

13 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco  
14 continues to support federal Senate bills S. 2308 and S. 2299, and  
15 urges the United States Congress to pass and the President to sign  
16 these crucial bills, and be it

17 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco  
18 supports and urges passage of the federal Medi-Kids Health Insurance  
19 Act of 2000; and be it

20 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco  
21 urges Congress to reform the Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospital  
22 payment program to maintain overall funding at the 1998 level (with  
23 increases indexed to rates of overall health care inflation) and  
24 ensure that funds are more effectively targeted to hospitals serving  
25 the largest numbers of poor and uninsured patients; and be it

1           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco  
2 urges the state and federal governments to broaden Medi-Cal  
3 eligibility criteria and enhance outreach efforts to enroll more  
4 uninsured Californians in Medi-Cal, Healthy Families, and Access to  
5 Infant and Mothers (AIM); and be it

6           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco  
7 urges the state of California to continue to increase basic Medi-Cal  
8 per diem payment rates to providers and hospitals, with increases  
9 potentially targeted to hospitals serving significant numbers of  
10 Medi-Cal and uninsured patients; and be it

11          FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco  
12 urges the state of California to develop a program to fund at the  
13 County level health care services provided to indigent and uninsured  
14 persons.



# City and County of San Francisco

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

## Tails

## Resolution

---

**File Number:** 001275

**Date Passed:**

Resolution urging the San Francisco's California and federal legislators to continue efforts to halt Medicaid and Medicare reductions that negatively impact safety net providers, to increase reimbursements for Medicaid services and to increase eligibility for publicly funded health insurance programs.

---

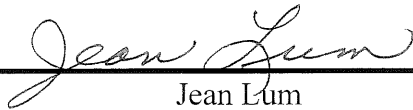
July 17, 2000 Board of Supervisors — ADOPTED

Ayes: 10 - Ammiano, Becerril, Bierman, Brown, Kaufman, Leno, Newsom, Teng,  
Yaki, Yee

Absent: 1 - Katz


File No. 001275

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on July 17, 2000 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jean Lum  
Acting Clerk of the Board

JUL 28 2000

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Approved

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Willie L. Brown Jr. 11