

1 [Urging Governor Gavin Newsom and the California State Budget Committee to Restore
2 Optional Adult Acupuncture Benefit in Medi-Cal to the California State Budget]

3 **Resolution urging Governor Gavin Newsom and the California State Budget Committee**
4 **to restore optional adult acupuncture benefit in Medi-Cal with an estimated cost of**
5 **\$5,400,000 in Fiscal Year 2025-2026 and ongoing \$13,100,000 to the California State**
6 **Budget.**

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8 WHEREAS, Under the California Budget Proposal Revision published on May 14,
9 2025, Governor Gavin Newsom eliminated optional adult acupuncture benefit in Medi-Cal,
10 with an estimated cost reduction of \$5,400,000 in Fiscal Year 2025-2026 and ongoing
11 \$13,100,000 from the General Fund; and

12 WHEREAS, Acupuncture was introduced to the American public in 1971, and more
13 than 7,000 clinical trials on acupuncture have been conducted globally, particularly as a
14 therapeutic treatment for cancer patients, auxiliary treatment of infertility, and pain
15 management; and

16 WHEREAS, In 2022, California Acupuncture Board reported that there are
17 approximately 11,819 active licensed acupuncturists in 2022 and about 9.3% of patients who
18 utilize Medi-Cal to pay for acupuncture services; and

19 WHEREAS, The National Institutes of Health (NIH) Heal Initiative reported that nearly
20 20% of Americans suffer from chronic pain, demonstrating the need for pain management
21 options, especially non-pharmacological and evidence-based treatment options; and

22 WHEREAS, According to the NIH report, more than 5.5 million people live with opioid
23 use disorder across the country and about 75% of drug overdose deaths involve opioid; and

24 WHEREAS, Leading research continue to demonstrate that acupuncture can be a
25 potential non-pharmacological alternative to pain management as well as a component of

1 comprehensive strategies to address opioid use disorder and reduce the risk of opioid
2 reliance; and

3 WHEREAS, A 2024 study published in the Annals of Internal Medicine reported that
4 62% of patients receiving acupuncture reduced their methadone dose by at least 20%; and

5 WHEREAS, Acupuncture is considered a holistic approach to medicine that focuses on
6 a patient's physical, mental, spiritual and social needs, and serves as a lifeline for patients
7 who are non-responsive to conventional medicine; and

8 WHEREAS, Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) that specializes in serving
9 historically marginalized communities, minorities, and communities of color, have been
10 expanding acupuncture services since 2016 and providing a life-changing treatment to many
11 patients who seek acupuncture services and who would not be able to receive them without
12 the assistance of Medi-Cal; and

13 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges Governor Newsom and the
14 California Senate Budget Committee to recognize the importance of acupuncture services to
15 Medi-Cal patients and commit to fully restoring optional adult acupuncture benefit in Medi-Cal
16 upon the passage of the California State Budget; and, be it

17 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors hereby directs the Clerk of the
18 Board to send a copy of this Resolution to the Governor's Office, Chair of the Senate Budget
19 and Fiscal Review Committee State Senator Scott Wiener, and Chair of the Assembly Budget
20 Committee Assembly Member Jesse Gabriel.