

1 [Supporting IHSS providers, seniors and people with disabilities and opposing proposed state  
2 funding reductions.]

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4 **Resolution supporting In Home Supportive Services (IHSS) Providers, Seniors and**  
5 **People with Disabilities and Opposing Proposed State Funding Reductions.**

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7 WHEREAS, In Home Supportive Services (IHSS) workers perform a critical public  
8 service to the frail elderly and persons with disabilities; and,

9 WHEREAS, More than 10,000 seniors and persons with disabilities in the City and  
10 County of San Francisco, and some 350,000 people statewide, rely on the IHSS program to  
11 continue living safely in their own homes instead of nursing homes; and,

12 WHEREAS, The IHSS program has saved the State of California billions of dollars  
13 since the early 1970's by enabling people to avoid more costly institutional based care  
14 (estimated to average \$46,000 per year per person) by making it possible for people to  
15 continue living more self-sufficiently and with greater dignity in their own homes; and,

16 WHEREAS, One of the greatest causes of unnecessary institutionalization statewide is  
17 the continued homecare provider labor shortage caused by the low wages (often minimum  
18 wage in many counties); and,

19 WHEREAS, That labor shortage has been somewhat abated in the City and County of  
20 San Francisco as a result of more recent improvements in caregiver compensation approved  
21 by the Board of Supervisors; and,

22 WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco has supported local improvements  
23 in the IHSS program, consistent with the movement in our society toward home-based care,  
24 making available care in the least restrictive setting; and,

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1           WHEREAS, Governor Schwarzenegger has proposed to take a step backwards by  
2 removing all state cost sharing for IHSS wages above the minimum wage, making 1/3 of IHSS  
3 consumers in the City and County of San Francisco and statewide ineligible for services and  
4 other cuts to this essential program; and,

5           WHEREAS, Governor Schwarzenegger has also proposed making the IHSS Advisory  
6 Committees optional, which could potentially eliminate an effective process for IHSS  
7 consumers, workers, advocates and community members to provide input on how to provide  
8 quality care in the IHSS program; and,

9           WHEREAS, Governor Schwarzenegger has further proposed making the IHSS  
10 Employers of Record (Public Authorities) optional for counties, which could eliminate both the  
11 collective bargaining process for workers and the IHSS Registry for consumers who use this  
12 service to find qualified IHSS care providers; now, therefore, be it

13           RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco supports continued and  
14 increased state support of this essential service and that we oppose the proposed cuts to the  
15 IHSS program; and, be it

16           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco urges Governor  
17 Schwarzenegger to reconsider his proposed cuts to the IHSS program; and, be it

18           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco applauds the  
19 members of the Legislature who have supported improvements in IHSS and who will be  
20 continuing their work to improve services to seniors and people with disabilities and to provide  
21 a living wage for homecare workers in the months to come.

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