

1 [Medical Marijuana Awareness Week.]

2

3 **Resolution declaring February 15 through 22, 2003 as “Medical Marijuana Awareness**
4 **Week” in San Francisco.**

5

6 WHEREAS, On November 6, 1996, the voters passed the California Compassionate
7 Use Act (Proposition 215). In January 1997, Judge Garcia of San Francisco ruled that
8 cannabis dispensaries could operate under the guidelines of Prop. 215 as long as they
9 followed specific required procedures; and

10 WHEREAS, On July 18, 2002, the California Supreme Court ruled, "The possession
11 and cultivation of marijuana is no more criminal -- so long as [the law's] conditions are
12 satisfied -- than the possession and acquisition of any prescription drug with a physician's
13 prescription;" and

14 WHEREAS, States like California that passed medical marijuana referenda must be
15 accountable for implementing the voters' will; and

16 WHEREAS, thousands of seriously and critically ill patients who currently rely on safe
17 access to medical marijuana in 8 States that allow it are under threat of Federal arrest and
18 prosecution; and

19 WHEREAS, On September 6th, 1988, after 16 years of court battles, the DEA's chief
20 administrative law judge, Francis L. Young, ruled: "Marijuana, in its natural form, is one of the
21 safest therapeutically active substances known.... [T]he provisions of the [Controlled
22 Substances] Act permit and require the transfer of marijuana from Schedule I to Schedule II...
23 It would be unreasonable, arbitrary and capricious for DEA to continue to stand between
24 those sufferers and the benefits of this substance;" and

25

1 WHEREAS, Top DEA bureaucrats rejected Judge Young's ruling and refused to
2 reschedule marijuana; and

3 WHEREAS, The Institute of Medicine's 1999 report on medical marijuana
4 commissioned by the White House states, "The accumulated data indicate a potential
5 therapeutic value for cannabinoid drugs, particularly for symptoms such as pain relief, control
6 of nausea and vomiting, and appetite stimulation;" and

7 WHEREAS, The voters that passed Proposition 215 have been given confusing and
8 inaccurate information by the DEA and the ONDCP in order to lessen the critique of DEA
9 raids that threaten the safe access by seriously ill patients of the medical marijuana
10 recommended by their physicians; and

11 WHEREAS, Voters deserve to know accurate and clear information on who uses and
12 benefits from the use of marijuana as medicine; now, therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors designates February 15
14 through 22, 2003 as Medical Marijuana Awareness Week.

15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25