

1 [Opposing elimination of state guarantees for low-income immigrant access to health and
2 social services.]

3 **Resolution opposing Governor Schwarzenegger's proposals to eliminate state**
4 **guarantees which ensure that low-income immigrants have access to health and social**
5 **services.**

6
7 WHEREAS, More than a quarter of California's population were born abroad and more
8 than half of California's low-wage working families are immigrant families; and

9 WHEREAS, Almost 40 percent of San Francisco's population immigrated from abroad;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, California's and San Francisco's economies depend heavily on hard
12 working immigrants, who contribute enormously to the wealth and culture of our communities,
13 and who are integral to our future; and

14 WHEREAS, The National Academy of Sciences has concluded that the average
15 immigrant contributes \$1,800 more each year in taxes than he or she costs the government;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, The State of California established, with bipartisan support, programs to
18 ensure that low-income immigrants will have access to basic health and social services; and

19 WHEREAS, The health and social services programs created by the State of California
20 include the California Food Assistance Program (CFAP), Cash Assistance Program for
21 Immigrants (CAPI), Healthy Families for immigrants, and CalWORKs services for immigrants;
22 and

23 WHEREAS, California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger in his proposed 2004-05
24 state budget would eliminate these programs and replace them with a single block grant to
25 counties; and

1 WHEREAS, The block grant will create hardships for local governments by creating
2 new administrative responsibilities and shifting the costs of providing such health and social
3 services to the counties without guaranteeing sufficient funding to meet the needs of
4 immigrant families; and

5 WHEREAS, Governor Schwarzenegger has further proposed freezing enrollment into
6 CFAP, CAPI, Healthy Families, CalWORKs for immigrants, and Medi-Cal non-emergency
7 services for immigrants who are ineligible for federal Medicaid, so that tens of thousands of
8 immigrants will be denied these critical services in the next two years; and

9 WHEREAS, Governor Schwarzenegger's proposals to freeze enrollment into these
10 critical programs will deny thousands of San Francisco residents the means to secure
11 adequate housing, food, and health care; and

12 WHEREAS, The proposed budget cuts will deny preventive care, prenatal care, breast
13 and cervical cancer treatment and long-term care services for thousands of children, pregnant
14 women, families, seniors and persons with disabilities; and

15 WHEREAS, The proposed budget cuts will increase hunger, homelessness, and public
16 health risks in San Francisco and across the state; and

17 WHEREAS, Studies confirm that every dollar invested in prenatal care saves three
18 dollars in care soon after birth and at least four dollars in longer-term medical costs, and that
19 access to preventive care for children with common health conditions avoids more costly
20 hospitalizations; and

21 WHEREAS, The proposed cuts will cost local governments millions of dollars due to
22 increased use of emergency care services and other county health and social services;

23 WHEREAS, Many of the programs targeted by Governor Schwarzenegger have
24 allowed immigrants to become more economically self-sufficient and to contribute to their local
25 communities; therefore be it

1 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
2 strongly opposes Governor Schwarzenegger's proposals to cut funding to or to eliminate state
3 programs that provide basic health and social services to low-income immigrants; and, be it

4 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the Mayor to direct the
5 City and County's lobbyist to actively oppose these anti-immigrant budget cuts and to work
6 with community advocates to ensure that these cuts do not take effect.