

1 [Supporting The Emergency Medical Care Initiative]

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3 **Resolution supporting the passage of Proposition 67, the Emergency Medical Care**
4 **Initiative on the 2004 November ballot.**

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6 WHEREAS, Approximately \$540 million is spent on uncompensated emergency and
7 trauma care in California annually; and

8 WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco contributes \$10 million that is not
9 reimbursed for emergency care services at the San Francisco General Hospital; and

10 WHEREAS, 64 Emergency Rooms have closed statewide in the last 10 years,
11 including Mount Zion in San Francisco; and

12 WHEREAS, Five more California hospitals have announced plans to close including
13 the San Jose Medical Center; and

14 WHEREAS, State and federal law requires emergency rooms to treat anyone and
15 everyone who comes to the emergency without regard to their ability to pay; and

16 WHEREAS, Emergency room visits have dramatically increased due to a growing
17 number of uninsured and underinsured residents, more complicated chronic medical
18 conditions, and an increasingly older population with more complex medical issues; and

19 WHEREAS, Underfunding of emergency rooms leads to longer wait times, difficulty in
20 procuring services of on-call specialists and increasing diversion rates which may lead to
21 delays in treatment and unnecessary fatalities; and

22 WHEREAS, Statistics from San Francisco General Hospital show that the hospital is on
23 diversion up to 30% of the time and 2003 statistics show one in four patients who used the
24 emergency room left before seeing a doctor, an increase from 16% from the prior year; and

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1 WHEREAS, The non-profit neighborhood clinics in San Francisco provide accessible
2 and high quality primary and urgent care – care that would otherwise be sought in
3 overburdened emergency rooms; and

4 WHEREAS, A highly trained and well equipped first-responder staff is a vital part of our
5 emergency medical care network; and

6 WHEREAS, Access to high quality and efficient emergency medical care is a priority
7 for all San Franciscans; and

8 WHEREAS, Proposition 67, the Emergency Medical Care Initiative will appear on the
9 November 2, 2004 ballot; and

10 WHEREAS, Proposition 67 will provide between \$500 and \$550 million a year in
11 additional funding for the emergency care system in California, including \$11 million for
12 emergency rooms, trauma centers, first-responder training and equipment and health clinics
13 in San Francisco; and

14 WHEREAS: Statements of support of Proposition 67 were passed unanimously by the
15 San Francisco Health Commission and the San Francisco Board of Education as well as from
16 individual community leaders and advocacy groups such as Sheriff Mike Hennessey, the San
17 Francisco Deputy Sheriffs Association, the San Francisco Firefighters' Union, the Gray
18 Panthers, Senior Action Network, San Francisco Medical Society, the San Francisco
19 Emergency Physicians Association, the San Francisco Community Clinics Consortium and
20 many neighborhood organizations and community leaders therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board Supervisors supports the passage of
22 Proposition 67, the Emergency Medical Care Initiative on the 2004 November ballot.

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