

1 [Supporting Kaiser Wellness Center]

2 **URGING THE NATIONAL HERITAGE INSURANCE COMPANY (NHIC) TO ALLOW THE**
3 **WELLNESS CENTER TO APPEAL NHIC'S CLOSURE OF THE WELLNESS CENTER**
4 **PRIOR TO THE PAYMENT OF \$126,932 OF OUTSTANDING DEBT, AND FURTHER**
5 **URGING THE NHIC TO ALLOW AN EXTENSION TO THE WELLNESS CENTER FOR THE**
6 **PAYMENT OF THE DEBT TO FORESTALL THE CLOSURE OF THIS VITALLY NEEDED**
7 **CLINIC.**

8 WHEREAS, The Wellness Center, located on the Davies Campus California Pacific
9 Medical Center, is San Francisco's largest HIV/AIDS private practice in San Francisco; and

10 WHEREAS, A small staff of 15 provide comprehensive, high quality medical care to
11 over 1500 patients, one third of whom suffer from HIV/AIDS and two thirds from severe and
12 debilitating chronic diseases such as cancer, chronic pain, auto-immune diseases, and chronic
13 fatigue syndrome; and

14 WHEREAS, Prior to the establishment of the Wellness Center, the practice was
15 administered by Conant Medical Group (CMG) which was then bought by the Quest
16 Corporation; and

17 WHEREAS, The Quest Corporation, which decided in 1997 to permanently cease
18 operations and gave its staff only 48 hours of notice; and

19 WHEREAS, Despite lacking phones, furniture, computers and other vital equipment
20 necessary to run high volume practice, Dr. Jon Kaiser and his colleagues decided to continue
21 to provide medical services to over 1500 clients; and

22 WHEREAS, Capital investment totaling more than \$325,000 was required to restart the
23 practice; and

24 WHEREAS, Unbeknownst to Dr. Kaiser, the improper billing practices of the previous
25 owners, CMG and the Quest Corporation, resulted in a \$126,931 shortfall in Medicare
reimbursements; and

WHEREAS, Without any prior notification by Medicare, the Wellness Center recently
completed an extensive internal audit; and

1 WHEREAS, The NHIC is auditing the Wellness Center for the period subsequent to Dr.
2 Kaiser's assuming ownership of the Wellness Center and prior to the their internal review

3 WHEREAS, The National Heritage Insurance Company, contracted by Medicare,
4 insisted on full repayment of the full \$126,931 or risk closure of the Wellness Center; and

5 WHEREAS, The Wellness Center is one of the few medical practices that provide
6 comprehensive, high quality care to over 1500 low-income Medicare and middle income
7 clients living with HIV/AIDS and other chronic diseases; and

8 WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco has
9 received numerous calls from Wellness Center patients, community members and supporters
10 who highly praise the quality of care at the Wellness Center and insist that the Center remain
11 open because of the vital medical care that it provides for citizens of the San Francisco Bay
12 Area; now, therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
14 hereby urge the National Heritage Insurance Company to consider an appeal submitted by the
15 Wellness Center prior to the immediate and full repayment of \$126,931; and be it

16 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors hereby urges Senators Dianne
17 Feinstein and Barbara Boxer as well Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi to support the Wellness
18 Center's appeal to the NHIC as well as urging the Federal Health Care Finance Administration
19 to grant the Wellness Center the right to have their case appealed.
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25 **SUPERVISORS AMMIANO, BECERRIL, BIERMAN, KATZ, LENO, NEWSOM, YAKI**



City and County of San Francisco

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Tails

Resolution

File Number: 000153

Date Passed:

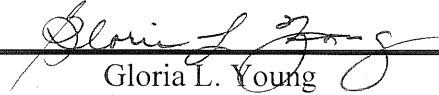
Resolution urging the National Heritage Insurance Company (NHIC) to allow the Wellness Center to appeal NHIC's closure of the Wellness Center prior to the payment of \$126,932 of outstanding debt, and further urging the NHIC to allow an extension to the Wellness Center for the payment of the debt to forestall the closure of this vitally needed clinic.

January 31, 2000 Board of Supervisors — ADOPTED

Ayes: 11 - Ammiano, Becerril, Bierman, Brown, Katz, Kaufman, Leno, Newsom, Teng, Yaki, Yee

File No. 000153

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on January 31, 2000 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.



Gloria L. Young
Clerk of the Board

FEB 11 2000

Date Approved



Mayor Willie L. Brown Jr.