

1 [Supporting Assembly Bill 1743 (Ting) - Removing the Number of Syringes a Pharmacist Can
2 Sell to an Adult Without a Prescription]

3 **Resolution urging the California State Legislature to pass Assembly Bill 1743, authored**
4 **by Assemblymember Phil Ting, to remove the number of syringes a pharmacist can to**
5 **sell to an adult without a prescription and remove the sunset date in current law.**

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7 WHEREAS, Sharing used syringes remains the most common mode of transmission of
8 hepatitis C, and the second most common cause of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)
9 and hepatitis B transmission; and

10 WHEREAS, These diseases are costly and potentially deadly, with the average lifetime
11 cost to treat just one case of HIV exceeding \$600,000; and

12 WHEREAS, The California Department of Public Health and the Federal Centers for
13 Disease Control & Prevention have found that allowing adults to purchase sterile syringes
14 from pharmacists without prescriptions is a key component to the prevention and control of
15 these diseases; and

16 WHEREAS, Studies consistently find that the transmission of disease is reduced in
17 areas that allow adults to purchase syringes over the counter than areas that mandate
18 prescriptions; and

19 WHEREAS, According to a study published in the Journal of the American Public
20 Health Association, in a national comparison of 60 cities that did not require a prescription for
21 the sale of syringes and 36 that did require a prescription, there was no statistically significant
22 difference in the prevalence of injection drug use between the two groups of cities; and

23 WHEREAS, The rate of HIV among injection drug users was twice as high in the cities
24 that prohibited sale of syringes (13.8 percent vs. 6.7 percent); and

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1 WHEREAS, Current law, which will sunset on January 1, 2015, provides pharmacists
2 the discretion to sell up to 30 syringes to an adult without a prescription; and

3 WHEREAS, Assembly Bill 1743 (AB 1743) will remove the number of syringes a
4 pharmacist has the discretion to sell to an adult without a prescription and will remove the
5 sunset date in current law, making over the counter syringe sales a permanent part of
6 California’s public health strategy; and

7 WHEREAS, Under AB 1743, pharmacists would be required to meet specific
8 requirements for the provision of information and materials, including letting purchasers know
9 how to safely dispose of syringes, how to access drug treatment, and options for testing and
10 treating HIV and hepatitis; and

11 WHEREAS, AB 1743 is supported by the Drug Policy Alliance and the San Francisco
12 AIDS Foundation; now, therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
14 hereby urges the California State Legislature to pass Assembly Bill 1743; and be it

15 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors forward a copy of
16 this resolution to California Assemblymember Phil Ting with a request he take all action
17 necessary to achieve the objectives of this resolution.

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