

1 [Women, Girls, and Transgender Women's Health Month - February 2014]

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3 **Resolution declaring February 2014 as Women, Girls, and Transgender Women's**
4 **Health Month in the City and County of San Francisco, encouraging women, girls, and**
5 **transgender women to sign-up for health insurance through Covered California or the**
6 **expanded Medi-Cal Program; acknowledging that reproductive health is a vital**
7 **component of women, girls, and transgender women's health and overall wellbeing**
8 **that must be recognized, prioritized, and protected; affirming San Francisco's support**
9 **for the Women's Health Protection Act of 2013; launching a social media campaign to**
10 **honor women, girls, and transgender women's health; and encourage women, girls,**
11 **and transgender women to obtain health coverage through Covered California, the**
12 **expanded Medi-Cal Program, or Healthy San Francisco.**

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14 WHEREAS, The Affordable Care Act offers an unprecedented opportunity for women,
15 girls, and transgender women to improve their health by obtaining affordable insurance under
16 Covered California or through the expanded Medi-Cal Program; and

17 WHEREAS, Reproductive health is women's health meaning that women, girls, and
18 transgender women are only safe and secure if they have access to the full range of
19 reproductive health care services including all FDA approved contraceptives, access to
20 abortion, and preventative health care services including breast and cervical cancer
21 screenings, testing and treatment for sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), prenatal and
22 postnatal care, medically accurate comprehensive sexual health education, and screenings
23 for inter-personal violence; and

24 WHEREAS, The Affordable Care Act will make women, girls, and transgender women
25 safer and more secure by providing expanded options for affordable health insurance that, in

1 California, will provide reproductive health care services that women, girls, and transgender
2 women need and deserve without cost-sharing; and

3 WHEREAS, February is Black History Month, and Black/African-American residents in
4 San Francisco face an alarming difference in health compared to all other ethnic groups
5 including the fact that the perinatal death rate among Black/African American residents was
6 five times higher than other ethnic groups and the infant death rate was six times higher; and

7 WHEREAS, Despite the gains for women, girls, and transgender women in the
8 Affordable Care Act, there remain aggressive and concerted efforts in the United States to
9 take away the full range of reproductive health care services, including insurance coverage for
10 abortions, contraceptives and preventative health care services; and

11 WHEREAS, Even in San Francisco, each week protesters harass and intimidate
12 women, girls, and transgender women as they seek reproductive health services at clinics like
13 Planned Parenthood; and

14 WHEREAS, Members of Congress have introduced the Women’s Health Protection Act
15 of 2013 (S. 1696/H.R. 3471), on file with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors in File No.
16 140107, which is hereby declared to be a part of this resolution as if set forth fully herein,
17 which would protect a woman’s right and ability to determine whether and when to bear a
18 child or end a pregnancy by limiting restrictions on the provision of abortion services by
19 individual states; and

20 WHEREAS, Birth control has been legal in the United States since 1965 and 99% of
21 sexually active women in the United States use birth control to plan their families, reduce
22 unintended pregnancies, achieve greater financial security, and treat medical conditions; and

23 WHEREAS, Women and girls in consultation with their physicians, have a
24 constitutionally protected right to abortion care, and before the Supreme Court decision, *Roe*
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1 v. *Wade*, made abortion safe and legal in 1973, as many as 1.2 million women and girls per
2 year had unsafe abortions, resulting in thousands of deaths and emergency room visits; and

3 WHEREAS, The widespread use of contraception and availability of comprehensive
4 sex education have led to the decline of unintended pregnancies and STDs, including
5 HIV/AIDS; and

6 WHEREAS, Family planning and preventative health care, including cancer
7 screenings, contraception, and abortion, promote healthy families and save taxpayers \$4 for
8 nearly every public dollar invested; now, therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors declares February 2014, as Women, Girls
10 and Transgender Women’s Health Month in San Francisco; and, be it

11 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors encourages all women, girls,
12 and transgender women in San Francisco to obtain insurance through Covered California or
13 the expanded Medi-Cal Program or if ineligible for those programs, to sign up for the Healthy
14 San Francisco program; and, be it

15 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors supports the Women’s Health
16 Protection Act of 2013 and thanks those Members of the United States Congress from
17 California who have endorsed the Act; and be it

18 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors hereby directs the Clerk of the
19 Board to send a copy of this resolution to Senator Diane Feinstein, Senator Barbara Boxer,
20 Representative Nancy Pelosi, and Representative Jackie Speier; and be it

21 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors commits to partner with
22 community based organizations that promote women, girls, and transgender women’s health
23 to launch a social media campaign throughout the month of February to both encourage
24 women, girls, and transgender women to sign up for insurance through Covered California
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1 and the expanded Medi-Cal Program as well as affirm that women, girls, and transgender
2 women’s reproductive health must be recognized, prioritized, and protected.

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