

1 [Supporting a Strong, Independent Department of Veterans Affairs]

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3 **Resolution supporting a strong, independent Department of Veterans Affairs and**  
4 **opposing privatization.**  
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6 WHEREAS, The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) provides integrated, specialized,  
7 and trauma-informed healthcare uniquely designed to meet the needs of veterans; and

8 WHEREAS, A strong, fully staffed VA healthcare system benefits not only veterans but  
9 also the broader healthcare ecosystem through training, emergency preparedness, and  
10 specialized clinical expertise; and

11 WHEREAS, According to a new report by the United States Senate Veterans Affairs  
12 Committee, the VA cut 40,000 employees in 2025, including over 150 positions at the San  
13 Francisco VA Health Care System (SFVAHCS), leading to understaffing, impacting quality  
14 and timeliness of care, and overburdening remaining healthcare staff; and

15 WHEREAS, In Minneapolis, where a VA Intensive Care Unit, Alex Pretti, was murdered  
16 by Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agents, his colleagues are unable to take personal  
17 bereavement leave because of understaffing; and

18 WHEREAS, Ongoing efforts to privatize and outsource VA healthcare divert public  
19 resources to for-profit providers, undermine continuity of care, and hollow out internal VA  
20 capacity all while shifting the burden of care onto already-strained local hospitals, emergency  
21 rooms, public health systems and community clinics; and

22 WHEREAS, Over 300,000 Veterans residing in San Francisco and the Bay Area rely  
23 on the VA for timely, high-quality care that cannot be easily replicated in fragmented private  
24 systems; and  
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1           WHEREAS, Privatization of the VA would send thousands of vulnerable veterans with  
2 complex conditions will be funneled into our already stressed for-profit health systems; and

3           WHEREAS, The VA serves as one of the Country's top training hospitals, with over  
4 70% of US physicians, 50% of US psychologists doing training at the VA, the VA also has the  
5 nation's largest clinical social work training program, and trains thousands of nurses yearly,  
6 privatization will eliminate this training program; and

7           WHEREAS, VA research and innovation benefits everyone, not just veterans; now,  
8 therefore, be it

9           RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors affirms its support for a  
10 strong, publicly funded, and publicly operated VA healthcare system; and be it

11          FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors opposes  
12 policies that privatize, outsource, or otherwise weaken VA healthcare services, staffing, or  
13 infrastructure; and be it

14          FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors calls on  
15 Congress and the Department of Veterans Affairs to fully fund, staff, and strengthen the VA's  
16 internal capacity to deliver care directly to veterans; and be it

17          FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors recognizes VA  
18 healthcare workers and their unions as essential partners in delivering high-quality veteran  
19 care; and be it

20          FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors hereby directs  
21 the Clerk of the Board to transmit copies of this resolution to the San Francisco congressional  
22 delegation, and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.