

1 [Accessible Hepatitis C Treatment]
2 URGING SCHERING-PLOUGH PHARMACEUTICALS TO UNBUNDLE THE ANTI-VIRAL
3 AGENT RIBAVIRIN, IMPLEMENT A 75 PERCENT PRICE CUT, IMPLEMENT A
4 COMPREHENSIVE PATIENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, AND CEASE ALL AGGRESSIVE
5 SALES TACTICS.

6
7 WHEREAS, Currently 4 million Americans have Hepatitis C (HCV),
8 and 500,000 of these individuals live in California; and,

9 WHEREAS, The anti-viral agent ribavirin has been available for
10 many years outside of the United States for use in the treatment of
11 viral infections; and

12 WHEREAS, Schering-Plough Pharmaceuticals obtained the licensing
13 agreement, as well as FDA approval, to sell ribavirin in the United
14 States as a treatment for HCV in combination with other treatments;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, Schering-Plough Pharmaceuticals bundles ribavirin with
17 INTRON A in a kit known as REBETRON for the treatment of HCV, which
18 means that the only way patients, doctors and researchers can obtain
19 ribavirin is as part of the REBETRON package; and

20 WHEREAS, This practice restricts doctors and researchers from
21 using ribavirin in conjunction with other drugs, and impedes
22 researchers from testing ribavirin in combination with other drugs;
23 and

24 WHEREAS, This has the potential to negatively impact patient
25 treatment, and inhibit development of more successful treatments; and

1 WHEREAS, In 1995, a one-month supply of ribavirin could be
2 obtained outside of the United States for approximately \$230, but in
3 1998, the cost of a one-month supply has more than quadrupled, and
4 can only be bought in a kit costing \$1450; and,

5 WHEREAS, Many individuals with HCV cannot obtain treatment
6 because the cost is prohibitive; now, therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County
8 of San Francisco strongly urges Schering-Plough Pharmaceuticals to
9 unbundle ribavirin and make it available separately so that patients,
10 doctors and researchers may choose to use or study it in combination
11 with other treatments; and be it

12 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors strongly urges
13 Schering-Plough Pharmaceuticals to implement a 75% price cut, in line
14 with other drugs, such as AZT, in this classification of drugs; and
15 be it

16 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors strongly urges
17 Schering-Plough Pharmaceuticals to implement a comprehensive patient
18 assistance program, similar to that used for the AIDS Drug Assistance
19 Program, for individuals who cannot afford treatment; and be it

20 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors strongly urges
21 Schering-Plough Pharmaceuticals to cease all aggressive sales tactics
22 currently being used against patient support and advocacy groups.
23
24
25



City and County of San Francisco

Veterans Building
401 Van Ness Avenue, Room 308
San Francisco, CA 94102-4532

Tails Resolution

File Number: 981662

Date Passed:

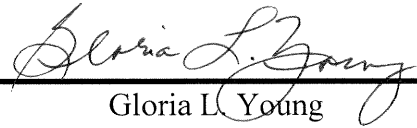
Resolution urging Schering-Plough Pharmaceuticals to unbundle the anti-viral agent ribavirin, implement a 75 percent price cut, implement a comprehensive patient assistance program, and cease all aggressive sales tactics.

October 13, 1998 Board of Supervisors — ADOPTED

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

File No. 981662

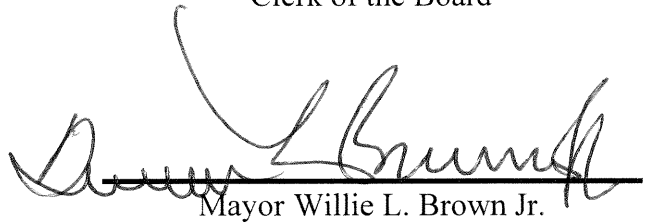
I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on October 13, 1998 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.



Gloria L. Young
Clerk of the Board

OCT 23 1998

Date Approved



Mayor Willie L. Brown Jr.