

1 [Asserting San Francisco’s Commitment to Women’s Reproductive Health Rights]

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3 **Resolution raising objections to the recent rulings of the United States Supreme Court**  
4 **in regards to *McCullen v. Coakley* and *Burwell, et al. v. Hobby Lobby Stores, Inc.* and**  
5 **calling for the City and County of San Francisco to do everything in its power to ensure**  
6 **that these rulings do not adversely impact women in San Francisco.**

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8 WHEREAS, Women must have adequate access to reproductive health services and  
9 the ability to obtain contraception; and

10 WHEREAS, Denying access to reproductive health care and contraception leads to  
11 discrimination against women, allows for harassment of women and jeopardizes the  
12 advancement of women’s reproductive rights; and

13 WHEREAS, With its decisions in *McCullen, et al. v. Coakley, et al.* and *Burwell, et al. v.*  
14 *Hobby Lobby Stores, Inc., et al.*, the Supreme Court has failed in its commitment to protect  
15 public safety, patient access to healthcare, unobstructed use of public sidewalks and streets,  
16 and freedom from the imposition of another’s religious beliefs; and

17 WHEREAS, In *McCullen, et al. v. Coakley, et al.*, the United States Supreme Court  
18 held that anti-choice protestors maintain the right to publicly express their personal beliefs  
19 while obstructing access to women’s health clinics; and

20 WHEREAS, In the last ten years, there have been more than 140 recorded instances  
21 of clinic blockades and 4,749 recorded incidents of violence against abortion providers in the  
22 United States and Canada; and

23 WHEREAS, Freedom of speech should be balanced with the rights of patients to  
24 access medical care without having their privacy violated and their dignity compromised; and

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1           WHEREAS, In *Burwell, et al. v. Hobby Lobby Stores, Inc., et al.* the United States  
2 Supreme Court held that for-profit companies can deny women access to contraception as  
3 part of their health coverage if doing so violates the religious beliefs of the company; and

4           WHEREAS, Seventy-one percent of voters believe prescription birth control should be  
5 provided without any out-of-pocket costs as part of an individual's preventative health care  
6 plan; and

7           WHEREAS, Women across the nation and state are being denied the birth control  
8 method of their choice or must wait to pay out-of-pocket for the method prescribed by their  
9 health care provider because of delays in the implementation of the Affordable Care Act  
10 (ACA) and restrictions resulting from Supreme Court's decisions; and

11           WHEREAS, According to data from California for Disease Control and Prevention  
12 (CDC), sixty-two percent of women of reproductive age in the United States are using birth  
13 control and from 2006 to 2010, more than sixty percent of women aged 15-44 used  
14 contraception regularly; and

15           WHEREAS, Without adequate access to basic reproductive health care services and  
16 contraception, women are forced to make difficult decisions about their reproductive health;  
17 and

18           WHEREAS, The cost of an Intrauterine Device (IUD) is nearly equivalent to a month's  
19 full time pay for a worker earning minimum wage and, according to the Center for American  
20 Progress, more than one-half of young adult women have not used their birth control method  
21 as it was directed because it was cost-prohibitive; and

22           WHEREAS, More than one-half of the nation's six million pregnancies each year are  
23 unintended; and

24           WHEREAS, Unintended pregnancies could be notably reduced by providing affordable  
25 reproductive health care and contraception, especially for low-income women; and

1           WHEREAS, San Francisco is a place that protects the rights of women to have safe  
2 and accessible reproductive health care; and

3           WHEREAS, San Franciscan’s should have contraceptive coverage that is  
4 comprehensive, fair, and consistent; now, therefore, be it

5           RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco  
6 asserts its commitment to women’s reproductive freedom; and, be it

7           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San  
8 Francisco commits to ensuring that regardless of these rulings that women seeking abortion  
9 are protected from harassment and all San Franciscan’s can obtain contraception without  
10 restrictions, delays or out-of-pocket costs; and be it

11           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors hereby directs  
12 the Clerk of the Board to send a copy of this resolution to the Honorable Dianne Feinstein,  
13 United States Senate, the Honorable Barbara Boxer, United States Senate, the Honorable  
14 Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader, U.S. House of Representatives and the Honorable Jackie  
15 Speier, U.S. House of Representatives urging support for the “Protect Women’s Health from  
16 Corporate Interference Act.”

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