

1 [Healthy Kids Program Expansion.]

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3 **Resolution urging the Department of Public Health to advance universal health care**
4 **coverage in the City and County of San Francisco by extending health insurance**
5 **coverage to the uninsured young adults ages 19 to 24 through the City's Healthy Kids**
6 **Program.**

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8 WHEREAS, In November of 1998, the voters of the City and County of San Francisco
9 passed Proposition J, which directs the City to assist the uninsured in obtaining affordable
10 health care coverage; and,

11 WHEREAS, San Francisco has implemented an incremental approach to achieving
12 universal health care coverage through the Healthy Workers Program in 1999, the Health
13 Care Accountability Ordinance in 2001, and the Healthy Kids Program in 2002; and,

14 WHEREAS, The Healthy Kids Program provides comprehensive health care coverage
15 for children and youth ages 0 to 18 in families with incomes below 300% federal poverty who
16 are ineligible for other State and federally funded health insurance programs. Health care
17 coverage is not available to older adolescent family members ages 19 to 24; and,

18 WHEREAS, According to the Department of Public Health, as of September 2003, a
19 total of 3,133 children and youth under the age of 18 are currently enrolled in the Healthy Kids
20 Program, representing a 62.7% of the estimated 5,000 eligible individuals, whereby indicating
21 a need for continued outreach to the targeted population for new enrollment; and,

22 WHEREAS, According to the California Health Interview Survey, 44% of San
23 Franciscans age 19 to 24 are uninsured. This ranges from 33.6% for 23 to 24 year olds to
24 54.9% for 19 year olds; and,

25 WHEREAS, With a Census 2000 count of 63,702 people ages 19 to 24, the

1 Department of Public Health estimates that there are approximately 27,000 to 28,000
2 uninsured individuals in this age range; and,

3 WHEREAS, Uninsured adolescent and young adult residents lack a source of health
4 care and must navigate a complex, fragmented health care delivery system with 32% of these
5 adolescents relying on emergency room services; and,

6 WHEREAS, Significant health problems among this population include Leukemia,
7 Lymphomas Hodgkin's Disease and tumors, which require access to ongoing medical care.
8 Other health problems in this age group are associated with behavioral and social risks, which
9 could be prevented with health care intervention; and,

10 WHEREAS, The lack of insurance coverage for adolescents and young adults is often
11 the result of the age limit placed on eligibility for Med-Cal, Healthy Families, Healthy Kids or
12 other publicly financed programs such as foster care, creating a significant gap in the
13 availability of health insurance for those living at or below poverty; and,

14 WHEREAS, Expanding health care coverage to uninsured low income family members
15 is part of the strategic plan of the Department of Public Health; now, therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
17 does hereby urge the Department of Public Health to research the feasibility and secure
18 funding for expanding the eligibility for the City's Healthy Kids Program to include adolescents
19 and young adults ages 19 to 24 and with family incomes up to 300% of the federal poverty
20 level; and, be it

21 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Department of Public Health identify all sources
22 available funding that may be used for the initiation of the insurance coverage for new
23 enrollments beginning Fiscal Year 2003-2004 and including Fiscal Year 2004-2005.

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