

1 [Supporting the Children’s Defense Fund Health Coverage for All Children Campaign]

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3 **Resolution supporting the Children’s Defense Fund’s Health Coverage for All Children**
4 **Campaign.**

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6 WHEREAS, Health care reform for everyone in America is a priority for the Obama
7 Administration and leaders in the 111th Congress as well as to the Board of Supervisors of
8 the City and County of San Francisco; and,

9 WHEREAS, Nine million children in America – about 1 in 9 – are uninsured; and,

10 WHEREAS, Currently, approximately two-thirds of uninsured children are eligible for
11 health coverage under Medicaid or the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) but are
12 not enrolled, often because of excessive enrollment barriers; and,

13 WHEREAS, Children are subjected to the “lottery of geography”—whether they get
14 coverage and what kind of benefits they receive is dependent upon the state in which they
15 live; and,

16 WHEREAS, Approximately 28,000 children die each year in America before their first
17 birthday—ranking the U.S. 27th among 30 industrialized countries; and,

18 WHEREAS, At least 48 states are facing budget shortfalls for fiscal year 2010 and
19 beyond, and at least 21 states have implemented cuts that will affect low-income children’s or
20 families’ eligibility for health insurance or reduce their access to health care services; and,

21 WHEREAS, In response to California’s budget crisis, the Governor and Legislature
22 have slashed funding for Healthy Families, closing the doors to new enrollment, instituting a
23 wait list for the first time in the program’s twelve year history, and raising the possibility that
24 children may have to be disenrolled from the program; and,

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1 WHEREAS, Health care premiums have increased more than three times as fast as
2 wages since 2001, and businesses are struggling to afford coverage for their workers; since
3 2000, the percentage of employers providing health benefits dropped from 69% to 63%; and,

4 WHEREAS, The Children’s Defense Fund is focusing on national health care reform by
5 emphasizing comprehensive and affordable health coverage for all children and pregnant
6 women; now, therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors supports the Children’s
8 Defense Fund’s Health Coverage for All Children Campaign; and, be it

9 FURTHER RESOLVED, That any health care reform legislation that is passed by the
10 Congressed and signed into law by the President include an affordable, comprehensive health
11 coverage guarantee for ALL children in America; and, be it

12 FURTHER RESOLVED, That such legislation require states to cover children up to 300
13 percent of the poverty level with no cost sharing, ensure Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis,
14 and Treatment (EPSDT) benefits for all children, and eliminate administrative barriers that
15 make enrollment and retention of children in CHIP and Medicaid more difficult.

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