

1 [Oppose Senate Bill 423]

2 OPPOSING SENATE BILL 423, WHICH WILL, IN PART, PROHIBIT CERTAIN FEDERAL  
3 PAYMENTS FOR METHADONE MAINTENANCE PROGRAMS WHICH DO NOT HAVE  
4 ABSTINENCE WITHIN SIX MONTHS AS A PRIMARY GOAL.

5 WHEREAS, In San Francisco, unintentional drug poisoning was the 5<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death  
6 overall, and as high as the 2<sup>nd</sup> leading cause of death in some neighborhoods; and,

7 WHEREAS, Over 85% of overdose deaths involved heroin; and,

8 WHEREAS, San Francisco ranks 3<sup>rd</sup> in the nation for heroin related emergency room visits; and,

9 WHEREAS, Of our approximately 13,000-15,000 active heroin users, approximately 4,000 are  
10 in some form of treatment, and approximately 2,150 participate in methadone maintenance; and,

11 WHEREAS, According to a San Francisco study, within the drug using population, only 22%  
12 are in treatment, but 59% say they would accept a treatment slot if one were immediately available;  
13 and,

14 WHEREAS, San Francisco, by resolution number 56-98, adopted February 6, 1998, recognized  
15 the value of methadone treatment by urging our Health Department to apply for a federal waiver  
16 allowing private physicians to administer methadone; and,

17 WHEREAS, General Barry McCaffrey, Clinton's drug advisor, has publicly endorsed expansion  
18 of methadone treatment on the basis of studies showing that methadone reduces heroin use by 70%,  
19 reduces crime by 50%, increases employment by 25%, and upon proof that it prevents the harms  
20 attendant to heroin use such as AIDS, hepatitis C, and soft tissue damage; and,

21 WHEREAS, According to the National Institute of Health's Consensus Development Statement,  
22 November 17-19, 1997, complete abstinence is not an achievable goal for the majority of opiate  
23 dependent persons; and,

24

25

SUPERVISORS

\*\*GAVIN NEWSOM\*\* , BIERMAN, LENO, KATZ  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

1           WHEREAS, According to this same report, patients who are treated for less than 3 months  
2 generally show little or no improvement, and most, if not all, patients require continuous treatment over  
3 a period of years, and perhaps for life; and,

4           WHEREAS, Methadone curbs the craving for heroin without producing the high associated with  
5 heroin; and,

6           WHEREAS, The death rates for persons removed from treatment, logged at twice those of  
7 patients in treatment, is attributed to the sharp increase in narcotics and AIDS-related deaths after  
8 leaving treatment; and,

9           WHEREAS, Senator McCain introduced a bill in the 106<sup>th</sup> Congress, which would prohibit the  
10 use of Medicaid funds for methadone maintenance programs that do not specify a time line (not to  
11 exceed six months) from the date of an individual's enrollment in treatment for achieving complete  
12 termination of methadone; and,

13           WHEREAS, Abstinence-based policies such as the one espoused by Senate Bill 423 represent  
14 the antithesis of the harm reduction policies consistently endorsed by San Francisco; now, therefore, be  
15 it

16           RESOLVED, The City and County of San Francisco does hereby oppose Senate Bill 423; and  
17 be it

18           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco does hereby urge  
19 Congress to reject Senate Bill 423; and be it

20           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco does hereby request that  
21 copies of this resolution be sent to our federal representatives and to President Bill Clinton.  
22  
23  
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# City and County of San Francisco

City Hall  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

## Tails

## Resolution

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**File Number:** 990590

**Date Passed:**

Resolution opposing Senate Bill 423, which will, in part, prohibit certain federal payments for methadone maintenance programs which do not have abstinence within six months as a primary goal.

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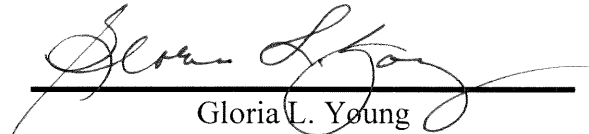
April 5, 1999 Board of Supervisors — ADOPTED

Ayes: 10 - Ammiano, Becerril, Bierman, Katz, Kaufman, Leno, Newsom, Teng,  
Yaki, Yee

Absent: 1 - Brown


File No. 990590

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on April 5, 1999 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

  
Gloria L. Young  
Clerk of the Board

APR 16 1999

Date Approved

  
Mayor Willie L. Brown Jr.