

1 [Urging Adoption of a Photograph Identification Policy for Patients Whose Physical
2 Characteristics Have Been Changed Due to Medical Treatment]

3 **Resolution urging the California Department of Motor Vehicles to adopt a photograph**
4 **identification policy, allowing patients that are undergoing medical treatment whose**
5 **physical characteristics have been changed, due to medical treatment, to request a**
6 **temporary extension of the stored photograph on their driver’s license or identification**
7 **card.**

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9 WHEREAS, The American Cancer Society estimates that there will be more than 1.8
10 million new cancer cases diagnosed in 2020; and

11 WHEREAS, The American Cancer Society estimates that there will be 172,040 new
12 cancer cases diagnosed in California in 2020; and

13 WHEREAS, Breast cancer is the most common cancer diagnosed among women in
14 the United States, and is the second leading cause of cancer death among women after lung
15 cancer; and

16 WHEREAS, The American Cancer Society estimates that there will be 30,650 new
17 cases of female breast cancer diagnosed in California in 2020, a projection which represents
18 the highest number of newly diagnosed cancer cases in California; and

19 WHEREAS, The treatment for invasive breast cancer and other cancers typically
20 requires a prolonged course of chemotherapy that causes serious side effects, such as a
21 seriously compromised immune system and significant or total hair loss; and

22 WHEREAS, The current California Department of Motor Vehicles policy states that
23 individuals may wear a headscarf or headgear for driver’s license and identification card
24 photographs only for religious reasons, and not for medical reasons; and

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1 WHEREAS, When individuals undergoing chemotherapy renew their driver's license or
2 identification card at the California Department of Motor Vehicles, they are asked to remove
3 any headscarf or headgear, thereby exposing the individual's temporary hair loss; and

4 WHEREAS, When individuals undergoing chemotherapy renew their driver's license or
5 identification card, they have to be physically present at the California Department of Motor
6 Vehicles, thereby subjecting their seriously compromised immune systems to a host of germs
7 and viruses being carried by other patrons while putting themselves at a significantly
8 increased risk of potentially life-threatening infection; and

9 WHEREAS, The individual's driver's license or identification card photograph becomes
10 a constant reminder of the life-altering struggle with cancer and cancer treatments, even long
11 after remission and recovery; and

12 WHEREAS, The State of New Jersey has passed a law allowing any person
13 undergoing treatment for an illness, whose physical characteristics have been temporarily
14 changed due to medical treatment, to request an extension of the stored photograph on their
15 driver's license or identification card; and

16 WHEREAS, By adopting this policy, California would be demonstrating a level of
17 awareness, kindness, and compassion for the hundreds of thousands of Californians
18 undergoing a punishing, but hopefully life-saving, course of medical treatment that causes
19 significant or total hair loss; and

20 WHEREAS, By adopting this policy, California would be protecting members of a
21 medically vulnerable population by sparing them exposure to germs and viruses commonly
22 present in public places like the California Department of Motor Vehicles; now, therefore, be it

23 RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco urges the California
24 Department of Motor Vehicles to adopt a photograph identification policy similar to the law of
25 the State of New Jersey allowing patients undergoing medical treatment whose physical

1 characteristics have been changed due to medical treatment to request an extension of the
2 stored photograph on their driver's license or identification card; and, be it

3 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco urges the
4 California Department of Motor Vehicles to allow individuals undergoing medical treatment
5 that may temporary alter their physical appearance the option of keeping their headscarf or
6 headgear on for driver's license or identification card photographs; and, be it

7 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco urges the
8 California State Legislature to draft a law on adopting a photograph identification policy similar
9 to the law of the State of New Jersey allowing patients undergoing medical treatment whose
10 physical characteristics have been changed due to medical treatment to request an extension
11 of the stored photograph on their driver's license or identification card; and, be it

12 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors hereby directs
13 the Clerk of the Board to send a copy of this resolution to the California Department of Motor
14 Vehicles, Governor Gavin Newsom, State Senator Scott Wiener, Assemblymember David
15 Chiu and Assemblymember Phil Ting.

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