

1 [Urging the Department of Public Health and Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital to
2 Implement New Guidelines to Protect Frontline Healthcare Workers From COVID-19]

3 **Resolution urging the Department of Public Health and Zuckerberg San Francisco**
4 **General Hospital to implement heightened protective measures to prevent frontline**
5 **healthcare workers from being exposed and later transmitting COVID-19 to other**
6 **vulnerable patients.**

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8 WHEREAS, On March 6, 2020, the San Francisco Health Officer issued a Declaration
9 of Local Health Emergency Regarding Novel Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19), which was
10 preceded by a March 4, 2020 Proclamation of a State of Emergency issued by Governor
11 Gavin Newsom and a February 25, 2020, Proclamation by the Mayor Declaring the Existence
12 of a Local Emergency; and

13 WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco is currently experiencing an
14 outbreak of the coronavirus (COVID-19) which has been deemed a global pandemic by the
15 World Health Organization; and

16 WHEREAS, Frontline healthcare workers such as doctors, nurses, paramedics, and In-
17 Home Support Service (IHSS) providers have been the first line of defense in stopping the
18 spread of COVID-19 often putting themselves in great risk of contracting the virus from
19 various patients that they come into contact with every day; and

20 WHEREAS, Other healthcare professionals such as physical therapists, occupational
21 therapists, and speech language pathology workers are also fearful for their health because
22 they also come into close contact with a vulnerable set of people, like seniors or those with
23 pre-existing health conditions; and

24 WHEREAS, According to the World Health Organization, as of March 24, 2020, there
25 are 398,100 confirmed cases of COVID-19 worldwide claiming the lives of 17,400 people; and

1 WHEREAS, In the United States as of March 24, 2020, there are already 46,805
2 cases, with 593 deaths; in California there are 2,297 confirmed cases, including 926
3 confirmed cases in the Bay Area, and 43 confirmed deaths in California, and 152 confirmed
4 cases in San Francisco; with these numbers continuing to rise at a rapid rate; and

5 WHEREAS, If healthcare professionals continue to follow the regular “business as
6 usual” practices implemented by management at Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital
7 (ZSFGH), they will undoubtedly become vectors for spreading the disease, further burdening
8 our healthcare system; and

9 WHEREAS, SEIU Local 2015 represents approximately 400,000 In-Home Supportive
10 Services (IHSS) providers who assist low-income seniors and people with disabilities, and are
11 advocating to request that the state take immediate direct action to support and protect the
12 IHSS community during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

13 WHEREAS, Direct care workers such as Registered Nurses (RNs), Licensed
14 Vocational Nurses (LVNs), and Certified Nursing Assistants (CNAs) work in over 1,200 skilled
15 nursing facilities (SNFs) throughout the state to provide medical care, rehabilitation, and
16 personal care to upwards of 120,000 residents a year; and

17 WHEREAS, Long-term care workers including homecare providers, RNS, LVNs, and
18 CNAs, are on the frontline of the COVID-19 crisis, providing care to the most vulnerable
19 populations including the elderly, disabled, and those living with conditions such as Chronic
20 Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), heart disease, and diabetes; and

21 WHEREAS, Homecare providers deliver personal and paramedical services in intimate
22 settings without the benefits or resources of a healthcare facility; and

23 WHEREAS, SEIU Local 1021 represents approximately 3,250 workers at ZSFGH and
24 approximately 1,300 workers at Laguna Honda Hospital; both hospitals serve the most
25 vulnerable of our city’s residents, and these workers are RNs, porters, patience care

1 assistants, CNAs, LVNs, food service workers, clerks and many other critical healthcare
2 professionals who are on our Department of Public Health’s frontline against this COVID-10
3 pandemic; and

4 WHEREAS, IFPTE Local 21 represents hundreds of rehabilitation professionals and
5 physician assistants in the Rehabilitation Department and various units all over San
6 Francisco who are tasked with caring for the most vulnerable and at-risk members of our
7 population at the two main public hospitals, clinics, and at patients’ homes; this includes many
8 patients that are over 80 years old, immune-compromised, and otherwise fragile and will not
9 be able to fight off an infection that attacks their pulmonary systems; and

10 WHEREAS, Even in the midst of this crisis, these healthcare professionals have been
11 asked to continue their daily work tasks with no additional Personal Protective Equipment,
12 despite nationwide directives from the Center of Disease Control (CDC) to adhere to social
13 distancing guidelines; and

14 WHEREAS, As a result, these healthcare professionals are putting patients,
15 themselves, and their families at risk since they come into close daily contact with their
16 patients for prolonged periods of time with little to no additional Personal Protective
17 Equipment such as masks, gloves, and protective coveralls; and

18 WHEREAS, The essential job functions of these frontline healthcare providers are to
19 break “social distancing” precautions by physically touching and facilitating the patients in
20 movement; and

21 WHEREAS, Healthcare professionals reporting on safety violations at their workplaces
22 should be protected, and not subjected to retaliation, even as they seek to mitigate the
23 hazards of being exposed to COVID-19; now, therefore, be it

24 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors reaffirms its commitment to
25 frontline healthcare providers and in-home support service providers in order to combat the

1 spread of COVID-19 and maintain the health and safety of the healthcare professionals who
2 risk their lives for well-being of others; and, be it

3 FURTHER RESOLVED, The San Francisco Board of Supervisors supports a
4 comprehensive set of long-term care specific guidelines be implemented statewide in
5 response to the COVID-19 pandemic that includes both avoiding transmission and caring for
6 individuals and family members who may have been exposed to or infected with the virus;
7 and, be it

8 FURTHER RESOLVED, To ensure that healthcare professionals in both the hospital
9 and in-home support services settings should be provided with sufficient protective supplies
10 such as masks, gloves; protective coveralls, and disinfectants; and, be it

11 FURTHER RESOLVED, All frontline healthcare professionals including workers that
12 provide in-home support should have access to training on Centers for Disease Control
13 guidance on COVID-19, including plans for preparing for infection control procedures, and
14 proper use of Personal Protective Equipment and adequate training on California Division of
15 Occupational Safety and Health (Cal/OSHA) standards; and, be it

16 FURTHER RESOLVED, That free testing and treatment should be provided for all
17 frontline healthcare providers including long-term care providers, individuals receiving
18 homecare, and residents of skilled nursing facilities as quickly as possible, and targeted
19 outreach will be employed to ensure all long-term care providers and recipients of care know
20 where to get tested and that all COVID-19 instructions and information be made accessible
21 and in the provider's preferred language; and, be it

22 FURTHER RESOLVED, That a minimum two weeks of pay before the workers are
23 required to use paid leave like sick leave for these healthcare professionals to allow them to
24 quarantine when sick, following California Department of Public Health guidelines for
25 caregivers; and, be it

1 FURTHER RESOLVED, All long-term care providers should be compensated for any
2 needed work hours in addition to their regular schedule and overtime will be paid at the
3 appropriate rate in response to COVID-19, and IHSS providers will not receive any overtime
4 violations for exceeding their workweek limits; and, be it

5 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, no later than 30
6 days after the passage of this Resolution, shall transmit copies of this Resolution to
7 Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital, San Francisco Department of Public Health,
8 California Department of Public Health and to the representatives of San Francisco on the
9 California State Legislature urging that they pass similar resolutions.

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