

1 [Urging the End of the Blood Donation Ban by Gay and Bisexual Men]

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3 **Resolution urging the United States Food and Drug Administration to end the federal**
4 **ban on blood donation by gay and bisexual men.**

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6 WHEREAS, In 1983 the Federal Drug Administration (FDA) banned blood donation by
7 any man who has had sex with another man at least one time since 1977 in response to the
8 AIDS epidemic; and

9 WHEREAS, In 2015, the FDA amended the policy to ban donations from any man who
10 has had sex with another man at least once within the last year; and

11 WHEREAS, A number of countries including Italy, Spain and Mexico allow men who
12 have sex with men to donate blood without any regard to sexual activity; and

13 WHEREAS, The American Medical Association, the Human Rights Campaign, the
14 AIDS Research Institute at the University of California San Francisco and the American
15 Association of Blood Banks are among many organizations that support lifting the FDA
16 prohibition on blood donations from men who have sex with men; and

17 WHEREAS, Blood banks are already required to test blood donations for HIV and other
18 infections; and

19 WHEREAS, A 2010 study by the University of California Los Angeles found that lifting
20 the 12 month ban would add another 300,000 pints of blood per year; and

21 WHEREAS, As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting shelter-in-place
22 and social distancing orders, blood banks across our nation are facing a severe blood
23 shortage; and

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1 WHEREAS, The American Red Cross has noted that one of the most important things
2 one can do to prevent another health care crisis amid the COVID-19 pandemic is to donate
3 blood; and

4 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Board of Supervisors has passed resolutions urging
5 the FDA to end the federal ban on blood donation by gay and bisexual men in 2010, 2014 and
6 2016; and

7 WHEREAS, On March 24, 2020, California State Senator Scott Wiener wrote a letter to
8 Dr. Stephen M. Hahn, Commissioner of Food and Drugs, requesting the elimination of the
9 FDA's prohibition on blood donations from gay and bisexual men unless they have been
10 celibate for one year to address a nationwide blood shortage as a result of COVID-19; and

11 WHEREAS, On March 26, 2020, a group of United States Senators including Senators
12 Kamala Harris, Tammy Baldwin, Elizabeth Warren, Bernie Sanders, Amy Klobuchar and Cory
13 Booker wrote a letter to Dr. Hahn expressing concern with the FDA's prohibition on blood
14 donations from gay and bisexual men unless they have been celibate for one year and urging
15 the FDA to update its policy in light of the COVID-19 nationwide blood shortage; now,
16 therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors calls upon the United
18 States Food and Drug Administration to end the federal policy that prohibits blood donations
19 from any man who has had sex with another man at least once within the last year to address
20 the nationwide blood shortage as a result of COVID-19; and, be it

21 FURTHER RESOLVED, That upon final adoption of this resolution, the Clerk of the
22 Board of Supervisors is directed to transmit a copy to Dr. Stephen M. Hahn, Commissioner of
23 Food and Drugs at the United States Food and Drug Administration.

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