

1 [Urging to Not Apply for Any State Waivers That Grant a Reduction in Existing Patient-to-
2 Nurse Ratios]

3 **Resolution urging the Department of Public Health and San Francisco-based public**
4 **and private hospitals to not apply for any State waivers granting a reduction in existing**
5 **patient-to-nurse ratios.**

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7 WHEREAS, On Wednesday, July 30, 2020, the United States counted more than 1,400
8 deaths from the coronavirus illness (“COVID-19”), as California, Idaho, North Carolina and
9 Florida all recorded single-day totals, increasing the net total deaths in the United States to
10 more than 150,000, the highest death total or roughly a quarter of the 667,744 counted by
11 Johns Hopkins University during that point in time; and

12 WHEREAS, As of Wednesday, July 30, 2020, a mere six months after the first cases of
13 COVID-19 were reported from China, the United States had 4.4 million confirmed cases, per
14 the aggregate data collected by Johns Hopkins University at that point in time; and

15 WHEREAS, As of August 23, 2020, California had 4,424 confirmed hospitalizations
16 and 1,388 in the ICU due to COVID-19, as reported by the California Department of Public
17 Health; and

18 WHEREAS, As of August 24, 2020, California had a total of 668,615 confirmed COVID-
19 19 positive cases and a total of confirmed 12,152 deaths because of COVID-19; and

20 WHEREAS, As of August 23, 2020, the City and County of San Francisco had 8,621
21 total confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 77 total deaths because of COVID-19, as reported by
22 the California Department of Public Health; and

23 WHEREAS, On July 29, 2020, the White House Task Force declared that 21 states
24 were currently “code red”, i.e., states that have reached more than 100 new cases per
25 100,000 people in the previous seven days; and

1 WHEREAS, On July 31, 2020, the California Department of Public Health confirmed
2 the first death of a young person to succumb to COVID-19, a teenager in the Central Valley;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, Because of these staggering numbers across California (an increase in
5 case counts and hospitalizations), health-care providers and local elected officials are
6 concerned about not only a possible shortage of health-care workers during this pandemic but
7 also concerned for health workers falling sick or dying from COVID-19; and

8 WHEREAS, As of July 23, 2020, an Oakland nurse who cared for patients and who
9 tested positive for COVID-19 became one of more than 115 Californian health-care workers to
10 die due to COVID-19 during that point in time; and

11 WHEREAS, San Francisco’s nursing staff shortage at the Zuckerberg San Francisco
12 General Hospital Trauma Center is well chronicled and dates back for almost a decade; and

13 WHEREAS, Thousands of nurses with the California Nurses Association/National
14 Nurses United staged a National Day of Action on August 5th, holding informational pickets
15 and workplace actions at hospitals across 17 States, including actions at Kaiser San
16 Francisco and California Pacific Medical Center, calling for increased staffing, personal
17 protective equipment (“PPE”), expanded COVID-19 testing, and more, with dozens of actions
18 previously at every San Francisco hospital protesting inadequate COVID-19 protections; and

19 WHEREAS, Because of all of the aforementioned and despite the worrisome human
20 suffering and skyrocketing metrics of COVID-19 in our communities, there are hospitals
21 across California that are now applying for waivers granting a reduction in staffing levels; now,
22 therefore, be it

23 RESOLVED, The San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges the San Francisco
24 Department of Public Health and all public sector and private sector hospitals in San
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1 Francisco to not apply for a State waiver allowing for a reduction in existing patient-to-nurse
2 ratios.

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