[Urging Pharmacies and Medical Providers to Address Pharmacy Deserts by Expanding Services in Underserved Neighborhoods]

Resolution urging pharmacies and medical providers to address pharmacy deserts by expanding services in underserved neighborhoods.

WHEREAS, Access to pharmacies is an essential component of public health, providing residents with life-saving medications, vaccinations, and basic healthcare services and products; and

WHEREAS, The closure of pharmacies disproportionately affects low-income residents, seniors, individuals with disabilities, and those with limited mobility, who often rely on nearby pharmacy locations for their daily medical needs and affordable daily products; and

WHEREAS, Walgreens has announced the closure of 12 store locations across San Francisco, including the last two remaining pharmacies in District 10, located at 5300 3rd Street and 1189 Potrero Avenue, effectively turning these neighborhoods into pharmacy deserts; and

WHEREAS, Many independent neighborhood pharmacies in San Francisco have been forced to shut down over the years due to the expansion of large pharmacy chains, leaving many communities—particularly in historically underserved areas—without adequate pharmacy access; and

WHEREAS, The absence of local pharmacies forces many residents to travel long distances for essential prescriptions, rely on mail-order services, or attempt to navigate online pharmacy options—an unfeasible solution for seniors and individuals facing technological or financial barriers; and

WHEREAS, The lack of accessible pharmacies exacerbates existing health disparities, making it more difficult for residents to manage chronic conditions, obtain preventative care, and access over-the-counter medical supplies; and

WHEREAS, Ensuring equitable access to pharmacy services aligns with San Francisco's commitment to public health, racial and economic equity, and the well-being of all residents, particularly those in marginalized communities; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges existing pharmacies, healthcare providers, and medical institutions of San Francisco to expand their services into neighborhoods affected by pharmacy closures and address the growing issue of pharmacy deserts; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors calls upon the San Francisco Department of Public Health and other relevant agencies to explore partnerships with independent pharmacies, community health centers, and nonprofit healthcare providers to expand pharmacy access in underserved neighborhoods; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges Walgreens and other major pharmacy chains to reconsider planned closures, extend their operating timelines where possible, and work collaboratively with city officials to ensure a smooth transition for affected residents; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be sent to the leadership of Walgreens, CVS, Target, Safeway, Lucky's, and other pharmacy providers, as well as the San Francisco Department of Public Health and local healthcare organizations including Kaiser Permanente, UCSF, Sutter Health, Dignity Health, North East Medical Services, urging them to take immediate steps to prevent further pharmacy deserts and safeguard equitable access to healthcare in San Francisco.