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[Urging Governor Brown and the State Legislature to Restore Cuts to Medi-Cal Rates]

Resolution urging Governor Brown and the State Legislature to restore cuts to the Medi-Cal reimbursement rates.

WHEREAS, Governor Brown released his proposed State budget on January 9, 2014; and

WHEREAS, With the most positive fiscal picture the State has seen in years, the Governor proposes to use the additional available resources to pay down debt and increase reserves; and

WHEREAS, The Governor's budget continues California's support of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and commitment to expanding the Medicaid program, called Medi-Cal in California, to provide health insurance for low-income Californians; and

WHEREAS, The Governor's budget does not invest significant new resources to support vital health care services in this critical time of ACA implementation; and

WHEREAS, The budget maintains previous reductions to the Medi-Cal program that were implemented during the economic downturn; and

WHEREAS, In 2010 California already ranked last in Medicaid spending per enrollee across the 50 states; and

WHEREAS, In 2011 California reduced already low Medi-Cal rates by an additional 10%; and

WHEREAS, Despite the State's improved financial situation, the budget continues California's historically low Medicaid reimbursement rates; and

WHEREAS, The State's commitment to ACA implementation also means changes to the health care safety net and the City's provision of care for the indigent population; and

WHEREAS, More than 30,000 currently uninsured San Franciscans will obtain affordable, quality health care coverage; and

WHEREAS, While Health Reform will most certainly reduce the need for uncompensated care by safety net health providers as a result of the transition of the uninsured to health insurance, an estimated 3 to 4 million Californians, including 50,000 to 85,000 San Franciscans, will remain uninsured after implementation of the ACA and continue to rely on the City's health care safety net; and

WHEREAS, Additionally, many of the low-income San Franciscans who gain insurance coverage through Medi-Cal will likely continue to rely on the City's safety net providers for several reasons, including the relationships established with these providers and the availability of other support services; and

WHEREAS, The City's health care safety net will continue to play a critical role to care for low-income insured and uninsured in San Francisco post-ACA and steps must be taken to ensure it is not destabilized; and

WHEREAS, The budget includes the redirection of Health Realignment funding for indigent care from the City to the State to reflect a projected reduction in the need for indigent care resulting from the transition of the low-income uninsured to health insurance; and

WHEREAS, State statute requires the State Department of Health Care Services to determine the redirected amount in consultation with the City's public hospital system; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That San Francisco commends Governor Brown on the progress made to reduce California's "Wall of Debt" and improve the state's economy; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That given the State's improved financial position and the critical juncture in the implementation of the ACA, it is imperative that the State continue to invest in the health care safety net; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That San Francisco encourages the State Department of Health Care Services to enter into meaningful conversations with San Francisco's public health system to ensure that the redirection of realignment funding reflects San Francisco's actual experience of enrollment into health insurance and reduction of uncompensated care costs; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That because Medi-Cal funding is a critical source of support for public and private providers in the health care safety net, San Francisco urges Governor Brown and the State Legislature to restore the cut to Medi-Cal reimbursement rates.



City and County of San Francisco

Tails

Resolution

City Hall 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

File Number:

140072

Date Passed:

February 04, 2014

Resolution urging Governor Brown and the State Legislature to restore cuts to the Medi-Cal reimbursement rates.

February 04, 2014 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED

Ayes: 11 - Avalos, Breed, Campos, Chiu, Cohen, Farrell, Kim, Mar, Tang, Wiener and Yee

File No. 140072

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 2/4/2014 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

Unsigned

Mayor

2/14/14

Date Approved

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution, not being signed by the Mayor within the time limit as set forth in Section 3.103 of the Charter, or time waived pursuant to Board Rule 2.14.2, became effective without his approval in accordance with the provision of said Section 3.103 of the Charter or Board Rule 2.14.2.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board