

1 [National Day of Action for Medicare’s 50th Birthday - July 30, 2015]

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3 **Resolution supporting the National Day of Action for Medicare’s 50th Birthday on July**
4 **30, 2015.**

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6 WHEREAS, Health care is a human right, and all Americans deserve affordable,
7 comprehensive health care paid for by an insurance program that brings everybody in and
8 leaves nobody out; and

9 WHEREAS, July 30, 2015, will mark the 50th anniversary of the signing of the
10 Medicare Act; and

11 WHEREAS, Medicare is our nation’s most successful and financially efficient health
12 insurance system, serving the health care needs of almost 50 million older and disabled
13 Americans, with administrative costs averaging only 2 percent of program outlays; and

14 WHEREAS, Despite its fundamental strengths, seniors bear significant out-of-pocket
15 health expenses under Medicare and do not have coverage for dental, vision, and long term
16 care; and

17 WHEREAS, Seniors are increasingly compelled to buy supplementary commercial
18 insurance plans to cover these and other medically necessary services, while employers are
19 shifting from sponsoring these plans for groups of retirees to making limited contributions
20 toward retirees’ purchasing them individually; and

21 WHEREAS, Congressional actions including budget proposals to raise Medicare
22 eligibility to age 67 and transform it into a voucher program and legislation that promotes its
23 further privatization endanger everyone’s health and financial security as well as the Medicare
24 program itself; and would dramatically increase health care costs for seniors; and

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1 WHEREAS, Medicare must be protected from these threats; improved so it covers all
2 medically necessary services including dental, vision, and long term care, with no
3 out-of-pocket costs; and expanded to every American so that it becomes Medicare for all,
4 financed by a public, single payer fund; now, therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors supports the “Medicare
6 Turns 50” campaign to celebrate the success of the Medicare program and to call for its
7 protection, improvement, and expansion on the National Day of Action on July 30, 2015.

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