

1 [Supporting the She Decides Initiative and Opposing the Enactment of the Mexico City Policy]

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3 **Resolution supporting the She Decides Global Initiative spearheaded by the**
4 **Netherlands which aims to support women’s fundamental rights around the world to**
5 **decide if, when, and how many children they have, by filling any gaps in funding**
6 **resulting from the U.S. President’s reinstatement of the Mexico City Policy (also**
7 **referred to as the “Gag Rule”), which bans financial support to foreign organizations**
8 **that provide access to safe abortion or any information about abortion, even if they do**
9 **so with non-U.S. funding.**

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11 WHEREAS, No existing method of birth control is 100% effective, access to
12 contraception may be limited, and women will experience unintended pregnancies, thereby
13 making safe abortion services a necessity; and

14 WHEREAS, An unsafe abortion is one of the five leading causes of pregnancy-related
15 deaths and injuries globally; and

16 WHEREAS, 21.6 million women have unsafe abortions each year resulting in 47,000
17 deaths worldwide; and

18 WHEREAS, When the Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush, and George W. Bush
19 administrations enforced the Mexico City Policy from 1985-1988, 1988-1993, and 2001-2009,
20 respectively, it negatively-impacted efforts to mitigate the high rates of unsafe abortion proving
21 the Mexico City Policy to be detrimental; and

22 WHEREAS, Trump’s re-imposition and expansion of the Mexico City Policy applies to
23 all global health funding, not just family planning funding through the United States Agency for
24 International Development or the State Department (“USAID”), meaning Trump’s rendition will
25 impact 15 times more funding than previous applications which totals nearly \$9.5 billion

1 dollars in global health funding in family planning and reproductive health funding according to
2 Population Action International a research and advocacy nonprofit aimed at protecting
3 women's reproductive rights; and

4 WHEREAS, The Mexico City Policy is an executive order that cuts funding for
5 international family planning organizations if they provide clients with information,
6 consultation, or services related to abortion or if they advocate for the legalization of abortion
7 in their countries; and

8 WHEREAS, The loss of U.S. funding contributes to the unmet need for modern
9 contraception for more than 225 million women around the world; and

10 WHEREAS, Marie Stopes International (MSI), one of the affected organizations, has
11 indicated that losing US funding for MSI-operations in the period 2017-2020 is expected to
12 lead to an additional 6.5 million unintended pregnancies, 2.2 million abortions, 2.1 million
13 unsafe abortions, and 21,700 maternal deaths; and

14 WHEREAS, An estimated 225 million women in developing countries want control over
15 their reproductive systems but are not using any method of contraception; and

16 WHEREAS, The She Decides Global Initiative aims to support women's fundamental
17 rights around the world to decide if, when, and how many children they have, by filling any
18 gaps in funding resulting from the U.S. President's reinstatement of the Mexico City Policy;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, Women having access to information to make informed reproductive and
21 health care decisions is a public health benefit; now, therefore, be it

22 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors hereby declares the City
23 and County of San Francisco's support of the She Decides Initiative; and, be it

24 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco opposes and will in
25 no way advance the current or future instatement of the Mexico City Policy; and, be it

1 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors is hereby directed
2 to forward this resolution to the Office of the President of the United States of America.

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