

1 [Urging the United States Department of Health and Human Services to Rescind New Title X
2 Regulations]

3 **Resolution urging the United States Department of Health and Human Services to**
4 **rescind the new Title X regulations that will impede access to essential, time-sensitive**
5 **health care for low-income women, men, and teens in San Francisco and the United**
6 **States.**

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8 WHEREAS, The federal Title X family planning program was established in 1970 by
9 Congress with broad bi-partisan support to provide high-quality family planning services and
10 other preventive care to low-income and uninsured individuals who may otherwise lack
11 access to health care; and

12 WHEREAS, Title X is the sole federal program dedicated to funding family planning
13 services, including birth control, pregnancy testing, and sexually transmitted disease
14 prevention and treatment; and

15 WHEREAS, Title X supports outreach and education efforts that link community
16 members to care; and

17 WHEREAS, California’s Title X provider network – the largest and most diverse Title X
18 system in the country – served more than one million low-income Californians in 2017, over
19 25% of all Title X patients nationwide; and

20 WHEREAS, Every \$1 invested in publicly-funded family planning and related services
21 saves taxpayers \$7 by helping avert costs related to unintended pregnancies; and

22 WHEREAS, \$1.3 billion is saved annually in California because of public investment in
23 family planning and related services provided at Title X health centers across the state; and

24 WHEREAS, Title X-funded health centers in California helped avert more than
25 200,000 unintended pregnancies in 2015; and

1 WHEREAS, Title X is an essential part of California’s family planning safety-net,
2 contributing to a 30-year low in the rate of unintended pregnancy and the lowest teen
3 pregnancy rate in the state’s history; and

4 WHEREAS, Nearly 20,000 low-income women, men, and teens in the City and County
5 of San Francisco received family planning and related health services in 2017 at Title X-
6 funded health centers; and

7 WHEREAS, More than 52% of Title X patients in the City and County of San Francisco
8 remain uninsured, and more than 77% earn below 150% or less of the Federal Poverty Level;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, San Francisco County Department of Public Health provided Title X-
11 funded family planning and related services to more than 6,000 patients across 10 County
12 clinics in 2017; and

13 WHEREAS, Asian and Pacific Islander Wellness Center, Planned Parenthood, and
14 Women’s Community Clinic received Title X funding in 2017 to support their delivery of quality
15 family planning and related services; and

16 WHEREAS, The new federal Title X regulations interfere with the provider-patient
17 relationship and gag Title X-funded agencies – including clinics operated by the Department
18 of Public Health – by directing providers to withhold full and accurate medical information from
19 patients about pregnancy options or provide referrals to abortion care; and

20 WHEREAS, Patients rely on and trust their health care providers to provide a
21 comprehensive, accurate and unbiased evaluation of their condition, along with all available
22 treatment options; and

23 WHEREAS, The American Medical Association’s Code of Medical Ethics establishes
24 that withholding information without the patient’s knowledge or consent is ethically
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1 unacceptable and that patients should be informed of all burdens, risks, and expected benefits
2 of all medical options; and

3 WHEREAS, San Francisco strongly believes public dollars should go toward family
4 planning programs that provide comprehensive, medically accurate, unbiased information,
5 and offer the full range of contraceptive methods; and

6 WHEREAS, The federal Government's Title X regulations are likely to force many
7 health care organizations and qualified family planning providers in San Francisco to choose
8 between a critical funding source and accepting onerous and unnecessary regulations,
9 resulting in reduced access to quality, time-sensitive care for low-income individuals across
10 the County; now, therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the United States Department of
12 Health and Human Services to rescind new Title X regulations which will impede access to
13 essential, time-sensitive health care for low-income women, men and teens in San Francisco
14 County and the country; and, be it

15 FURTHER RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors hereby directs the Clerk of the
16 Board to send a copy of the Resolution to the President and Vice President of the United
17 States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the Majority Leader of the Senate,
18 to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States, and
19 to the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

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