

1 [Supporting Senate Bill 220 for Health Insurance Coverage and Smoking Cessation]

2 **Resolution Supporting Senate Bill 220 for Health Insurance Coverage and Smoking**
3 **Cessation**
4

5 WHEREAS, According to the U.S. Surgeon General, tobacco is the greatest cause of
6 disease and premature death today, causing 435,000 deaths annually; and,

7 WHEREAS, Costs due to smoking related death and disease approach \$96 billion
8 dollars per year in medical expenses and cost \$97 billion dollars per year in lost productivity;
9 and,

10 WHEREAS, There are currently 3.8 million adult smokers in California; and,

11 WHEREAS, 45% of smokers reported trying to quit in the last year, with only a four to
12 seven percent success rate; and,

13 WHEREAS, The U.S. Surgeon General has stated that treatments for tobacco use are
14 not provided consistently as paid services for subscribers of health insurance; and,

15 WHEREAS, Statistics from the Centers for Disease Control indicate that smoking
16 disproportionately affects people in economically disadvantaged communities; and,

17 WHEREAS, In Massachusetts, a program covering most expenses for smoking
18 cessation counseling and prescription drugs for Medicaid recipients led to an astonishing drop
19 in the population of the economically disadvantaged who smoke; now, therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors endorses and supports
21 Senate Bill 220, which requires that health care service plan contracts and insurance policies
22 provide benefits to include coverage for smokers attempting to quit smoking.
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