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Resolution calling on the San Francisco Department of Public Health to provide medically necessary transition-related care for transgender people and to remove exclusions under the San Francisco Health Care Security Ordinance.

[Transgender Health Care Inclusion in Healthy San Francisco]

WHEREAS, Access to health care is regularly denied to transgender and gender nonconforming people, who frequently experience discrimination, including denial of services, when attempting to access health care; and

WHEREAS, Transition-related medical care, including surgeries, is often dismissed as "cosmetic" or "elective" despite the medical community's recognition of such procedures as medically necessary and effective treatment; and

WHEREAS, Various studies have concluded that receiving medically necessary transition related treatment results in a dramatic drop in suicidality, an overall improvement in mental health, a reduction in HIV infection, a decline in substance abuse rates, and an increase in socioeconomic status for transgender people; and

WHEREAS, The Health Care Security Ordinance ("Healthy SF") — San Francisco's locally designed and funded health care program for uninsured adults — currently provides certain health care services to transgender participants, but administratively excludes other services, such as sex reassignment surgery based on a diagnosis of gender identity dysphoria, when the same services are provided to non-transgender participants, thus denying transgender residents access to necessary health care under this local program; and

WHEREAS. The exclusion of certain transition-related procedures singles out and negatively impacts transgender people; and

WHEREAS, Unlike vision and dental coverage, this exclusion is not mandated by the Health Care Security Ordinance itself; and

WHEREAS, Assemblymember Tom Ammiano, the primary author of the ordinance, has said that he intended Healthy SF to eventually include transition related health care and that the program was intended to address the needs of San Franciscans without discrimination against any resident; and

WHEREAS, The Director of Public Health and the Director of the Human Rights

Commission have been working together and with the community to fulfill the intent of Healthy

SF by extending its coverage to the complete medical needs of transgender people; and

WHEREAS, Concerns of cost and over-utilization are often overstated and serve to justify impermissible discrimination against the transgender community; and

WHEREAS, The California Department of Insurance studied actuarial data of five employers, including the City and County of San Francisco, and concluded in its "Economic Impact Statement" that the economic impact of transgender health care inclusion is insignificant and immaterial, and that inclusion in fact provides cost savings as well as significant benefits for the health, welfare, and safety of the transgender population; and

WHEREAS, A growing trend among private businesses is to remove transgender health care exclusions; and

WHEREAS, Courts have recognized the injustice of excluding medically necessary transition-related health services; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors reaffirms its strong commitment to equal and fair treatment of transgender people; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the San Francisco
Department of Public Health to remove the sexual-reassignment surgery exclusion from
Healthy SF; and, be it

Supervisors Wiener, Olague, Campos, Avalos, Chiu, Cohen, Mar, and Kim **BOARD OF SUPERVISORS** 

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the San Francisco
Department of Public Health, with community input, to take administrative steps necessary to
provide medically necessary gender-transition-related care.



## City and County of San Francisco **Tails**

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

## Resolution

File Number:

120777

Date Passed: July 24, 2012

Resolution calling on the San Francisco Department of Public Health to provide medically necessary transition-related care for transgender people and to remove exclusions under the San Francisco Health Care Security Ordinance.

July 24, 2012 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED

Ayes: 10 - Avalos, Campos, Chiu, Chu, Cohen, Elsbernd, Kim, Mar, Olague and

Wiener

Excused: 1 - Farrell

File No. 120777

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 7/24/2012 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Angela Calvillo Clerk of the Board

UNSIGNED

8/3/12

Mayor

**Date Approved** 

a cardo

Date: August 3, 2012

I hereby certify that the foregoing ordinance, not being signed by the Mayor within the time limit as set forth in Section 3.103 of the Charter, became effective without his approval in accordance with the provision of said Section 3.103 of the Charter.

Clerk of the Board

File No. 120777