FILE NO. 140825

[Urging an End to the Ban on Blood Donations by Gay and Bisexual Men]

Resolution urging the United States Food and Drug Administration to end the federal ban on blood donation by gay and bisexual men.

WHEREAS, Since 1983 the Federal Drug Administration (FDA) has banned blood donations by any man who has had sex with another man at least one time since 1977; and

WHEREAS, The FDA cites 1977 as the start of the AIDS epidemic and that men who have sex with men (MSM) are at a greater risk of HIV, hepatitis B and other infections that can be transmitted by transfusion; and

WHEREAS, The ban on blood donations by men who have had sex with men even once since 1977 ignores any other factors regarding the individual's risk factor, which results in a blanket discrimination against an entire segment of the population; and

WHEREAS, The FDA classifies all gay men in the highest-risk blood-donor category the same category as IV drug users and people who've spent more than five years since 1980 in a country that has Bovine spongiform encephalopathy, known more commonly as mad cow disease; and

WHEREAS, Even with a clean bill of health, a gay man is considered more of a threat to the blood supply than a straight man who was treated for chlamydia, syphilis, gonorrhea, venereal warts, and genital herpes within the past year; and

WHEREAS, In 40 states, a man can even give blood immediately after getting a tattoo; and

WHEREAS, Every two seconds, someone in the United States needs a blood donation and more than 41,000 blood donations are needed every day; and WHEREAS, One pint of blood-the most common amount given in donations-can save up to three lives; and

WHEREAS, A 2010 study by the Williams Institute at UCLA found that an additional 219,000 pints of blood would be donated if the ban on gay man were lifted; and

WHEREAS, The American Medical Association voted in 2010 to end the ban against gay men donating blood; and

WHEREAS, The United Kingdom lifted its 2011 ban on MSM blood donations; and

WHEREAS, As of July 2013, 21 countries have replaced MSM blood bans with alternate policies; and

WHEREAS, In 2010, the Department of Health and Human Services agreed that the ban on MSM blood donations was suboptimal, but still kept the ban in place; and

WHEREAS, In 2010, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors passed a resolution calling for the FDA to revise their longstanding prohibition on gay men donating blood; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That San Francisco Board of Supervisors calls upon the United States Food and Drug Administration to change federal policy banning all gay and bisexual men from making blood donations.



City and County of San Francisco Tails

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

Resolution

File Number: 140825

Date Passed: July 22, 2014

Resolution urging the United States Food and Drug Administration to end the federal ban on blood donation by gay and bisexual men.

July 22, 2014 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED

Ayes: 10 - Breed, Campos, Chiu, Cohen, Farrell, Kim, Mar, Tang, Wiener and Yee Excused: 1 - Avalos

File No. 140825

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 7/22/2014 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Angela Calvillo Clerk of the Board

Unsigned	
Mayor	

8/1/14

Date Approved

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution, not being signed by the Mayor within the time limit as set forth in Section 3.103 of the Charter, or time waived pursuant to Board Rule 2.14.2, became effective without his approval in accordance with the provision of said Section 3.103 of the Charter or Board Rule 2.14.2.

Angela Calvillo Clerk of the Board