Subject: Resolution No. 49-14A2

Resolution in Support of Proposition 72 to Support California Health Care
- Commissioners Eric Mar, Jill Wynns, Mark Sanchez, Eddie Y. Chin, Heather A. Hiles, Dan Kelly, and Sarah Lipson

WHEREAS: Proposition 72, the Health Insurance Act, will extend health insurance to over a million working people and their children and ensure that large and medium sized companies won’t terminate coverage or drastically increase premiums; and

WHEREAS: Starting in 2006, Proposition 72 will gradually build upon our current health system, by which over 18 million Californians get health coverage through their employer by giving employers with 50 or more workers the choice of buying private coverage for workers directly or paying into a statewide buying pool that would work to get private health coverage for employees and by requiring employers with 200 or more workers to provide family coverage for its workers; and

WHEREAS: Proposition 72 stipulates that workers of employers of 50 or more would be guaranteed health benefits that include preventative care, major medical, and prescription drugs, and paying no more than 20% of the monthly premiums for low-income workers, not more than 5% of their income; and

WHEREAS: Proposition 72 will protect the coverage employees already have and employers offer, and allow everyone to keep their current doctor and insurance plan; and

WHEREAS: The millions of Californians that now get coverage through their employer but are afraid of rising health care costs or losing their coverage altogether will have the security that their employers can never force them to pay for than 20% of premiums and can never drop coverage and always provide prescription drug coverage, preventive care and major medical; and

WHEREAS: According to the UCLA Center of Health Policy Research estimates that Proposition 72 will extend health insurance to 1.1 million additional workers and their children currently uninsured; and
WHEREAS: Prop 72 has been endorsed by a broad coalition of organizations including AARP California, the American College of Surgeons, California Church IMPACT, the California Consumer Federation, the California Federation of Teachers, the California Labor Federation, the California Medical Association, the California Teachers Association, Committee of Interns and Residents, Consumers Union nonprofit publisher of Consumer Reports, Greenlining Institute, Health Access California, Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees International Union, Latino Coalition for a Healthy California, Latino Issues Forum, League of Women Voters, PICO California, Planned Parenthood California, the San Francisco Organizing Project, United Auto Workers, Region 5, United Nurses Associations of California/Union of Health Care Professionals, among others; and

WHEREAS: Major opposition has come from large employers in the retail and fast-food industries, like Wal-Mart and McDonalds, even though 93.2% of restaurants and 93.3% of retailers are exempt from Proposition 72, according to the California Employment Development Department.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Board of Education of the City and County of San Francisco supports expanding health care coverage and helping to ensure quality coverage stays within reach for California families; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Board of Education of the City and County of San Francisco supports Proposition 72 and urges an affirmative vote on the November 2, 2004.