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Resolution in Support of the Extension of Recovery Act Increase in the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP)

Whereas, a significant factor in helping to prevent even further the decreasing of essential health and behavioral health services to San Francisco residents in the 2009-2010 fiscal year was the additional allocation in the federal medical assistance percentage (FMAP) that goes to States under the federal Medicaid program; and

Whereas, this allocation of funding was achieved by increasing the share of cost for Medicaid services that is paid by the federal government, thus causing the state/local share to go down. This increase share of cost allocation was included in the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act of 2009 (the "stimulus" bill). The increased federal participation was to cover all of the federal FY 2009, all of FY 2010 and the first quarter of FY 2011; and

Whereas, for California, this increase amounted to approximately a 6.2% increase in the share of cost, meaning that, based on the federal formula, the new FMAP federal allocation rose to about 61% and the State share (and thus the local requirement) dropped to 39%. This increased federal funding helped the SF Department of Public Health avoid devastating cuts in services, including significant lay-offs of non-profit contract program employees and City and County workers who serve the most vulnerable San Francisco residents; and

Whereas, it is critical that any continued federal support for local and state government, through the appropriations process or another stimulus package, continue this increased percentage of federal share of costs for the Medicaid program beyond the current scheduled time frame; and

Whereas, the FMAP increase is one of the most direct ways to infuse necessary funding into local government in order to assure that existing physical and behavioral health services remain available to those who are most at risk and it is an efficient mechanism to assure that there is no further loss of jobs in the health care sector because the Medicaid funding supports those direct service health care personnel who provide the services that produce the Medicaid reimbursement; and

Whereas, the FMAP increase is a direct "shot in the arm" to local governments and will have an immediate effect of assuring critical services and stopping further job loss in an essential sector; and

Whereas, the House of Representatives has recently passed a Jobs for Main Street Act, 2010 which calls for, in Section 3302, an extension of recovery act increase in the Federal Medical assistance percentage (FMAP) for six months, through June 2010, which increases the Federal match for Medicaid for all State programs,

Therefore Be It Resolved that the San Francisco Labor Council thanks Speaker Pelosi for her leadership in helping to pass the Jobs for Main Street initiative; and
Be It Further Resolved that the San Francisco Labor council supports continued additional

Medicaid funding to states that has been provided through an increase in the federal medical assistance percentage (FMAP) available to states through the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act of 2009 and will write our Senator Boxer and Senator Feinstein urging them to support this extension and to President Obama to sign it into law; and

Be It Further Resolved that the San Francisco Labor Council urges the Board of Supervisors to strongly advocate to the Senator Boxer and Senator Feinstein for the continuation of the FMAP additional Medicaid funding beyond the provisions of the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act of 2009 within the budget and appropriations process in Congress, as outlined in Section 3303 of the Jobs for Main Street Act, 2010, which extends for six months, through June 2010, the FMAP provision in the Recovery Act; and

Be It Finally Resolved that the San Francisco Labor Council will send this resolution to Labor Councils throughout the State and to the California Federation of Labor, asking for endorsement and to send letters to be sent to all California Representatives, US Senators and President Obama, asking for support in this funding.

Submitted by Conny Ford, OPEIU Local 3, and Robert Haaland, SEIU 1021, and adopted by the Executive Committee of the San Francisco Labor Council on February 1, 2010.

Respectfully,



Tim Paulson
Executive Director

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