

*Statement from San Francisco Supervisor David Campos on RESOLUTION NO. 49-14
Women, Girls, and Transgender Women's Health Month – February 2014*

I have a couple of items, and the first item is an item that we have been working on for quite some time. I want to thank Hillary Ronan of my office for all the work that she has done and I want to thank the number of women's organizations that have been working on this issue with us for the last few months. I am also very grateful to my colleagues who have co-sponsored this resolution, Supervisors Tang, Cohen, Farrell, Wiener, Mar, Avalos, and President Chiu.

It is a resolution that highlights the importance of women, girls, and transgender women's health. We say that we actually had worked to make this resolution a possibility last month. But because of the timing of some of the changes with the Affordable Care Act, we were not able to do that.

We are mindful that February is a very special month, it's Black History Month. And in this spirit, we also want to focus on the disparities to health access that disproportionately impacts women of color and African-American women, in particular. African-American residents in San Francisco unfortunately face an alarming difference in health compared to other ethnic groups, including the fact that prenatal death rates among African-American residents is a staggering 5 times higher than that of other ethnic groups.

Through, this resolution we want to highlight the importance of ensuring access to health care for women, girl, and transgender women. And the timing of this is important because the Affordable Care Act is about to go into implementation and there is a very clear and approaching deadline of March 31st. And, so, it's really important for us to make sure that between now and the time that that deadline comes that we sign up as many women, girls, and transgender women into the Affordable Care Act. And it's going to take the effort of the entire city family, not only government, but community-based organizations and all of us as residents of San Francisco to make sure that we do not leave a single woman, a single girl behind.

The second thing this resolution does is that it acknowledges the importance of health coverage to women's health and encourages all women, girls, and transgender women in San Francisco to sign up for the insurance that is provided through Cover California for the expanded Medi-Cal program. And to urge them to please not wait. And if you're not eligible for any of those programs, luckily we live in San Francisco and thank you, Tom Ammiano, we have Healthy San Francisco that will cover many of the women, girls, and transgender women who will be left out of the federal program.

The third item that this resolution does is it puts San Francisco, and specifically the Board of Supervisors, on record as supporting the Women's Health Protection Act of 2013, which will protect a woman's right to choose and the ability to determine for themselves when to bear a child and pregnancy.

As much as we are proud of the work that we have done in San Francisco, there is a sad fact that there have been a number of laws in other parts of the country – 68 laws – restricting access to abortion in 2013 alone, and the state of California was actually the only one of the 50 states that actually expanded abortion access, unfortunately, and in the remaining states the right to that access was limited.

And we also declare this month Women, Girls', and Transgender Women's Health Month in San Francisco for the purpose of enrolling as many women as we possibly can in health care.