Protection of Gender- and Sexuality-Specific Healthcare at USF
ASUSF Resolution 16-17-11

Whereas: The University of San Francisco holds as one of its Core Values the “social responsibility in fulfilling the University’s mission to create, communicate and apply knowledge to a world shared by all people and held in trust for future generations” and, despite the diversity of political views within the university, currently offers health insurance options to students which covers women’s health care, reproductive health care (including abortion services) and procedures and amenities otherwise specific to women, as well as services specific to issues faced by gender and sexual minorities (GSM); and

Whereas: The President of the United States issued his third Presidential Memoranda: “Barring International Non-Governmental Organizations that Perform or Promote Abortions from Receiving US Government Funding” on January 23rd 2017 - otherwise known as the “Mexico City Policy” (2001) or “The Gag Rule”. This regulatory policy withholds federal funding from non-governmental organizations (international or domestic) which may educate on the option of abortion or provide those services. The policy, originally issued in 2001 under President George W. Bush, requires non-governmental organizations to “agree as a condition of their receipt of [U.S.] federal funds" that they would "neither perform nor actively promote abortion as a method of family planning"; and

Whereas: As reported by CNN on January 20th 2017, the President of the United States issued Executive Order 13765 (“Minimizing the Economic Burden of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act Pending Repeal”) stating his intention to dismantle the Affordable Care Act before its official repeal, though there is no replacement currently under consideration in the United States Congress; and

Whereas: According to the federal Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program (“A Living History” 2009) on the roll-out of the Affordable Care Act:

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) is a historic opportunity for people living with HIV (PLWH), including those currently receiving services ... It increases access to health insurance coverage and health services for all Americans, including PLWH, through a number of private market reforms, an expansion of Medicaid eligibility, and the establishment of health insurance marketplaces.

However, these benefits will be denied in the case of repeal of the ACA, severely limiting access to pharmaceuticals designed for the prevention and treatment of HIV; and

Whereas: In the Congressional Budget Office Nonpartisan Analysis of the United States Congress, a report was issued on January 17th 2017 entitled “How Repealing Portions of the Affordable Care Act Would Affect Health Insurance Coverage and Premiums” which estimates that about half of the nation’s population lives in areas that would have no insurer participating in the nongroup market in the first year after the repeal of the marketplace subsidies took effect, and that share would continue to increase, extending to about three-quarters of the population by 2026. It is estimated that contraction of the market would most directly affect people without access to employment-based coverage or public health insurance and the most vulnerable Americans; and

Whereas: According to The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the United States is experiencing a concentrated HIV epidemic in urban areas which is “directly related to poverty” and includes a percentage infection rate higher than that of Ethiopia, which previously held record numbers; and, according to
the United States’ own Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), this disproportionately affects people who do not have access to health insurance services without the Affordable Care Act and its expansion of Medicaid services, especially in the San Francisco Bay Area - the US region with the second highest rate of HIV infection; and

Whereas: According to the New York Times on August 7 2016, Vice President Mike Pence publically displayed his personal beliefs about the stigma of HIV when he allowed his ignorance to prevent him from permitting needle exchange programs while he was the Governor of Indiana - creating a condition the paper described thusly:

What was going on was unprecedented in Indiana and rare in the United States: H.I.V. was spreading with terrifying speed [...] Local, state and federal health officials were urging the governor to allow clean needles to be distributed to slow the outbreak.

Furthermore, the Vice President’s legislative history includes endorsing initiatives specifically targeted at Gender and Sexual Minorities (GSM) including but not limited to Indiana Senate Bill 101: “The Religious Freedom Restoration Act” (March 26, 2015) which legislates private citizens’ license to discriminate against GSM.

Additionally, the Vice President has signed legislation explicitly targeted at limiting women’s healthcare, including H.B. 1337, an anti-choice measure which included requiring women to hold funeral services for fetal tissue (including first trimester miscarriages) and banned many abortion procedures entirely.

Thus, even in the case of the impeachment of Donald Trump, gender- and sexuality-specific healthcare would certainly still suffer; therefore, be it

Resolved by ASUSF Senate of the University of San Francisco, representing all the undergraduate students of the University: That the University of San Francisco’s student health insurance option continue to provide health care services to women and gender and sexual minorities (GSM) that reflect our Core Values, refusing to be bullied by federal threats of monetary retaliation - providing health insurance coverage policies which supply benefits including but not limited to abortion services, HIV testing and treatment, preventative healthcare screening, and the reimbursement of key prescription drugs that prevent HIV (Pre-Exposure Prophylactics or PrEP) or serve as contraception; and be it

Resolved: That the University of San Francisco’s student health insurance option continue to provide healthcare services that, even when no longer legally required through legislation like the Affordable Care Act, offer equally complete health services to women as well as students living with chronic and pre-existing conditions like HIV/AIDS.

Submitted by: Grace Berg, ASUSF Gender and Sexual Minoritized Student Representative
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