

1 [Supporting California State Senate Bill No. 944 (Wiener) - Medi-Cal: Acupuncture]

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3 **Resolution supporting the passage of California State Senate Bill No. 944, introduced**
4 **by Senator Scott Wiener, removing the limitation requiring federal matching funds for**
5 **acupuncture to be a covered benefit, thereby making acupuncture a covered benefit**
6 **under Medi-Cal.**

7
8 WHEREAS, Acupuncture was introduced to the American public in 1971, and more
9 than 7,000 clinical trials on acupuncture have been conducted globally, particularly as a
10 therapeutic treatment for cancer patients, auxiliary treatment of infertility, and pain
11 management; and

12 WHEREAS, In 2024, the California Acupuncture Board reported that there are
13 approximately 12,185 active licensed acupuncturists and about 9.3% of patients utilize Medi-
14 Cal to pay for acupuncture services; and

15 WHEREAS, Leading research continues to demonstrate that acupuncture can be a
16 potential non-pharmacological alternative to pain management as well as a component of
17 comprehensive strategies to address opioid use and reduce the risk of opioid reliance; and

18 WHEREAS, Acupuncture plays an important role in women’s reproductive health and
19 can alleviate symptoms for women experiencing symptoms of premenstrual syndrome; and

20 WHEREAS, Acupuncture is considered a holistic approach to medicine that focuses on
21 a patient’s physical, mental, spiritual and social needs, and serves as a lifeline for patients
22 who are non-responsive to conventional medicine; and

23 WHEREAS, Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) that specialize in serving
24 historically marginalized communities minorities, and communities of color, have been
25 expanding acupuncture services since 2016 and providing life-changing treatment to many

1 patients who seek acupuncture services and who would not be able to receive them without
2 the assistance of Medi-Cal; and

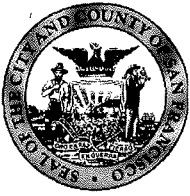
3 WHEREAS, The leadership of The California Asian American and Pacific Islander
4 (API) Legislative Caucus identified certain optional Medi-Cal benefits for patients as a priority
5 policy issue for the 2015-2016 Legislative Session and successfully reinstated acupuncture
6 services as a covered benefit under Medi-Cal in 2016 after prolonged removal in 2009; and

7 WHEREAS, Senate Bill No. 944 will further improve on efforts championed by The
8 California API Caucus by removing the limitation requiring federal matching funds for
9 acupuncture to be a covered benefit, thereby making acupuncture a covered benefit under
10 Medi-Cal; now, therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors recognizes the importance of accessible
12 acupuncture services for Medi-Cal patients; and, be it

13 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors supports the passage of
14 Senate Bill No. 944; and, be it

15 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San
16 Francisco directs the Clerk of the Board to forward a copy of this Resolution to Governor
17 Gavin Newsom.



City and County of San Francisco

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

Tails Resolution

File Number: 260186

Date Passed: March 03, 2026


Resolution supporting the passage of California State Senate Bill No. 944, introduced by Senator Scott Wiener, removing the limitation requiring federal matching funds for acupuncture to be a covered benefit, thereby making acupuncture a covered benefit under Medi-Cal.

March 03, 2026 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED

Ayes: 11 - Chan, Chen, Dorsey, Fielder, Mahmood, Mandelman, Melgar, Sauter, Sherrill, Walton and Wong

File No. 260186

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 3/3/2026 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.



Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

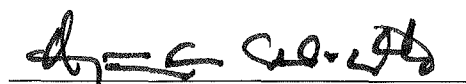
Unsigned

03/13/2026

Daniel Lurie
Mayor

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

03/13/2026

Date