

THE FOLLOWING LANGUAGE WAS PRINTED ON THE PETITION WHICH INITIATED PROPOSITION H

SUMMARY: THIS INITIATIVE STATES THAT THE AIDS EPIDEMIC IS A MAJOR PUBLIC HEALTH PROBLEM OF CONCERN TO EVERYONE, REQUIRING INCREASED SUPPORT FOR RELATED MEDICAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION. IT CALLS FOR A COUNCIL FOR AIDS RESEARCH AND EDUCATION OR SIMILAR UNITED EFFORT TO STOP AIDS.

We the people of San Francisco hereby adopt the following policy:

The AIDS epidemic has rapidly become a major public health problem, costly both in human lives and in general community resources;

The first steps in dealing with such a crisis are:

— the scientific research needed to discover and understand the nature, causes, co-factors, prevention, diagnosis and treatment of the disease, and

— the education of the public about the lessons of that research;

A proper program of research and education pays for itself in the long run;

Prompt action is urgent, because of the rapidly growing number of persons affected, increasing not only the suffering but also the difficulty of eradicating the disease;

The leadership and support of such an effort is everyone's responsibility;

While San Francisco's role in the overall effort against AIDS has been viewed as a positive example to other areas, the continued rapid increase in the spread of the disease means that we cannot afford to rest on our laurels or leave further responsibility to others.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

We call on all appropriate government bodies as well as medical, professional, charitable and community organizations and concerned individuals to join together in an all-out effort to stop AIDS;

We call for support to an organized united effort along the lines of an AIDS RESEARCH AND EDUCATION COUNCIL, including, in some form:

— A COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH, to provide informed evaluations as to priorities among research projects and proposals, recommending those which are most cost-effective and most likely to produce early results useful in the prevention or treatment of the disease, to avoid unnecessary duplication of efforts or neglect of promising approaches, and to provide the council with complete and up-to-date

information regarding comparative results of experimental treatments, prevention programs and other existing research;

— A COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, to inform the public regarding prevention and other research findings, and to inform relevant government officials and the general public, concerning the factual basis for a re-ordering of current public funding priorities toward an increased war against disease, including research and education against AIDS and related conditions;

— A FUND-RAISING COMMITTEE, to solicit donations, lobby for grants, organize benefits and other fund-raising projects spreading the financial burden by appealing to many sources;

We ask the council and committees to be responsive and accessible to public input, to include representation of all interested groups, to consider all viewpoints, and to be capable of prompt action;

We ask appropriate city officials to determine whether a suitable form of such a council already exists; if it does, we wish the city to support it actively; if not, we wish the city to seek to encourage its formation by such means as may appear proper.