



CONSENT CALENDAR
Sept. 13, 2022

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Councilmember Taplin
Subject: Resolution in Support of High-Quality, Equitable Healthcare Services at UCSF Children's Hospital Oakland

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution in support of patients, nurses, doctors, caregivers and other employees at UCSF Children's Hospital Oakland; and send resolution to the UC Board of Regents, UC Office of the President, and UCSF Health.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

BACKGROUND

Since the 2014 Affiliation Agreement established Children's Hospital Oakland as a partnering organization and subsidiary of UCSF, patients¹ and caregivers² have been raising alarms³ regarding staff burnout and attrition, loss of critical services, and redirecting East Bay patients from lower-income communities of color to facilities in San Francisco.

According to a 2020 letter from the California Nurses Association, "UCSF took over the leadership and control of Children's Oakland without financial responsibility for the effects of its decisions," which resulted in significant losses to "complex cardiovascular surgery, loss of adolescent medicine, loss of behavior and development specialists, loss of pulmonologists, loss of pediatric surgeons, lack of MRI capability, loss of neurooncologists, and loss of sickle cell clinicians and researchers."

In the letter, CNA made the following requests:

1. Restore high quality, tertiary care for all children at Children's Hospital Oakland.

¹ Fernandez, L. & Jarosz, B. (2021). Patients, providers say UCSF affiliation with Children's Hospital means worse care for East Bay families. *KTVU*. Retrieved from <https://www.ktvu.com/news/patients-providers-say-ucsf-affiliation-with-childrens-hospital-means-worse-care-for-east-bay-families>

² Krans, B. (2021). Patients, workers maintain Children's Hospital still suffers under UCSF. *Oaklandside*. Retrieved from <https://oaklandside.org/2021/12/03/patients-workers-maintain-childrens-hospital-oakland-still-suffers-under-ucsf/>

³ Kassabian, S. (2021). Children's Hospital Oakland joined UCSF in 2014. Was it a good move? *Oaklandside*. Retrieved from <https://oaklandside.org/2021/02/25/childrens-hospital-oakland-joined-ucsf-7-years-ago-was-it-a-good-move/>

2. Create a Board and Executive Leadership structure at Oakland independent of UCSF.
3. Create a health care system committed to rooting out structural racism and correcting the inequities between Oakland and San Francisco.
4. Commit to respecting and retaining nurses, physicians and other health care workers who have dedicated our careers to care for this community.

This resolution reiterates those requests, and supports a similar resolution issued by the Oakland City Council in January 2022.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

CONTACT PERSON

Councilmember Taplin Council District 2 510-981-5120

Attachments:
1: Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF HIGH-QUALITY, EQUITABLE HEALTHCARE
SERVICES AT CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL OAKLAND

WHEREAS, the 2014 Affiliation of Children's Hospital Oakland and Children's Hospital Oakland Research Institute with University of California San Francisco (UCSF) was touted as a collaboration of equals—a public-private partnership strengthening both hospitals, with Children's Hospital Oakland retaining its identity and benefiting from additional financial resources; and

WHEREAS, the 2014 Affiliation of Children's Hospital Oakland and Children's Hospital Oakland Research Institute with University of California San Francisco (UCSF) was touted as a collaboration of equals—a public-private partnership strengthening both hospitals, with Children's Hospital Oakland retaining its identity and benefiting from additional financial resources; and

WHEREAS, the vast majority of Children's Hospital Oakland patients come from Alameda, Contra Costa, Solano, and San Joaquin Counties and the patient population at Children's Hospital Oakland reflects the demographics of the East Bay, including many immigrants and children from families of color; and

WHEREAS, costs to patients and families have skyrocketed, with devastating economic impacts often exacerbated by the loss of household income during the recent pandemic; and

WHEREAS, inpatient and surgical volumes at UCSF Oakland have gone down since the affiliation, while UCSF Children's Hospital in San Francisco has increased significantly; and

WHEREAS, as critical services have been adjusted, many of Children's Hospital Oakland's patients have been forced to travel to San Francisco for services that had been provided in Oakland for decades; and

WHEREAS, critical services and health care service providers in Oakland, including complex cardiovascular surgery, adolescent medicine, behavior and development specialists, pulmonologists, pediatric surgeons, MRI capability, neuro-oncologists, have been neglected or cut after UCSF took over the leadership and control of Children's Hospital Oakland; and

WHEREAS, Children's Hospital Oakland remains a separate, not-for-profit children's hospital lacking true representation in the UC system, and with a separate operating budget from UCSF; and

WHEREAS, decreases in Oakland patient volume as well as loss of subspecialty services have decreased revenue for Children's Oakland, further limiting staff and services; and

WHEREAS, loss of radiologists and other subspecialists such as neurologists and pulmonologists has limited the clinical program's ability to provide comprehensive care; and

WHEREAS, since the affiliation, nurses, health care technicians, nurse practitioners, and physicians have strived to address these increasing healthcare disparities and costs, and have attempted to engage the UCSF leadership as partners with limited and inadequate success; and

WHEREAS, the lack of success by UCSF management to fill vacant positions has exacerbated short staffing and called into question the remaining staff's ability to provide high quality care consistent with the Children's Hospital Oakland's long-standing reputation as one of the premier children's hospitals in the country; and

WHEREAS, the transfer of financial resources from Children's Hospital Oakland to UCSF in San Francisco can lead to racial inequity for East Bay families, where people with less access to resources also get more limited access to quality health care.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Berkeley respectfully urges UCSF Health, the UC Office of the President, and the UC Board of Regents to restore comprehensive high quality, tertiary care for all children at Children's Hospital Oakland locations;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council respectfully urges UCSF Health, the UC Office of the President, and the UC Board of Regents to restore comprehensive high quality, tertiary care for all children at Children's Hospital Oakland locations;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council requests and urges UCSF to create a health care system committed to correcting the inequities between San Francisco and Oakland— as well as the other East Bay and Central Valley communities where the overwhelming majority of Children Hospital's patient population lives;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council urges UCSF to re-commit to respecting the views of and retaining nurses, doctors, and other health care workers who have dedicated their careers to care to serving children and families in our East Bay community.