



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Contact: Mayor's Office of Communications,
415-554-6131

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**HEALTHY SAN FRANCISCO NAMED A TOP TEN POLICY OF THE
YEAR BY DRUM MAJOR INSTITUTE**

SAN FRANCISCO, CA – The Drum Major Institute for Public Policy (DMI) has named Healthy San Francisco as one of the top 10 policies of the year in their 2008 Year in Review released today. In compiling this Year in Review, the Drum Major Institute for Public Policy analyzed public policy at all levels of government around the country.

“San Francisco is honored to receive this recognition for *Healthy San Francisco*, our pioneering and innovative approach to offering universal health coverage,” said Mayor Newsom. “San Francisco is proving that it can be done. By thinking outside-the-box, we can solve our national health crisis rather than passing the buck. *Healthy San Francisco* is a program that can be duplicated across the country if our elected officials are willing to take risks instead of continuing the status quo.”

DMI released the following statement regarding Healthy San Francisco:

"Everyone gets to see a doctor. Not just an overworked E.R. staffer who will see you after a five hour wait when you're facing a medical crisis, but a primary physician who can provide routine preventive care as well as treatment when you get sick. That's the ideal at least, and San Francisco is moving towards it more swiftly than anyplace else in country. Uninsured city residents can enroll in the Healthy San Francisco program for a sliding-scale fee based on income. Once enrolled, participants pick a "medical home" from any of the 27 participating public and non-profit health clinics throughout the city. Participants still don't have insurance that will follow them throughout the country and the world, but they do have regular access to health care at home by the Bay. Yet that's just part of the program. The other component, in effect for the first time in 2008, requires that all city employers with more than 20 workers contribute at least \$1.17 per hour worked per employee to pay for health care. Employers can put the cash toward private insurance. They can contribute it towards the city clinic system. Or they can set up health care accounts. But they can't avoid making some provision for their employees' health. Employer groups sued to stop the plan, but lost in court. As of October, nearly 31,000 San Francisco residents – out of an estimated 73,000 who were uninsured – get to see a doctor whenever they need to. For an innovative approach to expanding health coverage, Healthy San Francisco gets a hale and hearty place on our best of 2008 list."

The Drum Major Institute for Public Policy is a non-partisan, non-profit think tank. From releasing nationally recognized studies of an increasingly fragile middle class to showcasing progressive policies that have worked to advance social and economic justice, DMI has been on the leading edge of the public policy debate. To read more about the best in public policy go to: <http://www.drummajorinstitute.org/library/report.php?ID=78>

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