

## Healthy Communities Resolution

WHEREAS, The paramount concern of policymakers at all levels is the health and well-being of our constituents, never more so than during what has been called a once-in-a-century pandemic; and

WHEREAS, Decisions affecting the health and well-being of our constituents must be based on empirical evidence without regard to politics or the influence of special interest groups; and

WHEREAS, California has struggled as much as any state during the COVID-19 pandemic, with the third highest unemployment rate in the country, the largest backlog of unpaid jobless claims, and the fifth worst excess death rate west of the Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, California's *Blueprint for a Safer Economy* provides a one-size-fits-all approach to reopening communities that fails to allow the flexibility to respond in a data-driven way to what is occurring in our county; and

WHEREAS, The *Blueprint* largely impacts the operation of businesses and schools without any showing that those environments are responsible for COVID-19 cases observed in our county; and

WHEREAS, Our county has seen increases in drug abuse, delayed medical care, depression among our youth, and the overall need for mental health services; and

WHEREAS, Our county is extremely concerned about the impacts to our children of any further delays to in-person education; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Board of Supervisors, That these facts demonstrate a need for collective and unified action from our county and surrounding communities; and it be further

Resolved, That \_\_\_\_\_ County approve this Resolution with a commitment to the following principles:

1. That our county is best served by an ability to respond locally to the COVID-19 virus in accordance with our local data and circumstances, as specified, for instance, in the attestation filed with the California Department of Public Health.
2. That our county is geographically diverse and ill-suited for the county-wide restrictions imposed by the *Blueprint*, and the State should enable our COVID-19 response to be tailored to geographically separate areas, such as different zip codes, as circumstances and case levels warrant.
3. That school districts in our jurisdiction are urged to safely open all schools as soon as possible and provide in-person instruction to the greatest extent possible without further delay.
4. That our county requests an extension of time beyond December 31, 2020 to encumber and spend our federal CARES funds, to which we are entitled by law, consistent with our respective local plans and programs.