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*****PRESS RELEASE*****

**San Francisco Human Rights Commission Supports Policy
That Would Protect Intersex Infants from Invasive Surgeries**

Senate Concurrent Resolution 110 (SCR 110) asks health professionals to protect newborns/toddlers/infants born with variations of sex characteristics (intersex) from nonconsensual, medically unnecessary surgeries

(San Francisco) The San Francisco Human Rights Commission (SF-HRC) is pleased to announce full support of SCR 110, a California state-wide resolution that would call upon stakeholders in the health professions to protect children born with variations of sex characteristics from nonconsensual, medically unnecessary surgeries.

This policy, currently in review in the California State Legislature, and led by **Senator Scott Wiener**, with **interACT: Advocates for Intersex Youth and Equality California**; highlights that newborns and infants who are assigned 'Intersex' at birth are often subject to irreversible sex assignment, involuntary sterilization, involuntary genital normalizing surgeries, and typically performed without their informed consent and without the informed consent of their parents/legal guardians. Many Intersex adults learn of permanent, irreversible infertility, among other severe health concerns when they mature.

"We are in solidarity with the lives and lived experiences of Intersex communities, and acknowledge the pain Intersex people have experienced in enduring irreversible, invasive surgeries as newborns and infants. The San Francisco Human Rights Commission, since 2004, has maintained that these medically unnecessary surgeries have caused physical, mental and emotional pain for so many. These practices are truly unethical and we ask health professionals to acknowledge the grave consequences of these procedures"- said **Sheryl Davis**, *Executive Director of the San Francisco Human Rights Commission.*

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Beginning in 2004, The San Francisco Human Rights Commission began investigation into the medical “normalization” of intersex people, and published a report of the Department’s findings from the public hearing in April 2005. The report featured a compilation of materials, testimony, and information submitted by people with intersex anatomies, parents of children and adults with intersex anatomies, medical providers, researchers, legal experts, advocacy groups, representatives of City agencies and departments, and the public. The report highlighted our undeniable findings that unnecessary surgeries are grave and inherent human rights violations and should be deemed unethical, and of disregard to a child’s intrinsic human right to privacy, dignity, autonomy, and physical integrity.

“Over ten years ago the SFHRC took a stand for intersex people everywhere by recognizing our basic human right to be free from medically unnecessary surgeries performed without our consent. SCR 110 affirms California’s commitment to this deeply vulnerable population and sends a message to the medical community that these surgeries, which continue today in hospitals across California, must end. Our bodies are not broken and we don’t need fixing.”, said **Alesdair Ittelson**, *Law & Policy Director for interACT: Advocates for Intersex Youth*.

Aria Sa’id, *LGBTQI+ Policy Advisor for the San Francisco Human Rights Commission*, called the policy “a major step in increasing accountability of health providers to ensure that medically unnecessary surgeries be ceased on Intersex communities- who have expressed grief and trauma from the outcomes of those surgeries for generations”.

"This resolution is so important to demonstrate support for the intersex community and the need to prevent unnecessary, life-altering surgeries that harm many intersex people," said *Equality California Executive Director Rick Zbur*. "We're proud to support SCR 110 and thank Senator Wiener for his efforts to bring much-needed attention to this pressing human rights issue."

The Senate Judiciary Committee will review the Policy, SCR 110, for vote on May 1st. The resolution does not prohibit any provision of legitimate medically necessary care. It does however, provide a safeguard for individuals who are assigned ‘Intersex’ at birth from medical procedures and surgeries that are deeply harmful surgeries, including clitoral reductions, sterilizing gonadectomies, and other surgeries performed in infancy.

For more information on the **San Francisco Human Rights Commission’s investigation in to Medical “Normalization” of Intersex People** [Click Here](#)

For more Information on **SCR 110** [click here](#)

For more Information on **the impact of medically invasive surgeries** on Intersex children [click here](#)

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