

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA CALIFORNIA

Resolution Proclaiming May 1 through 7
As Cover the Uninsured Week in
Santa Barbara County

Whereas, 46 million Americans, including more than 50,000 Santa Barbara County residents do not have health insurance; and

Whereas, one out of every seven Santa Barbara County children is uninsured, which is the highest rate in all Central Coast Counties; and

Whereas, eight out of ten people who are uninsured are in working families; and

Whereas, the percentage of employers offering health insurance has decreased to less than 60% and is dropping by approximately 5% each year; and

Whereas, over the past five years, health care premiums have risen 5.5 times as fast as general inflation and 4 times as fast as workers earnings; and

Whereas, lower income residents on the Central Coast are more than four times as likely as higher income residents to have no health insurance; and

Whereas, hospitals in Central Coast Counties reported over \$67 million in bad debt and charity care in 2002-2003; and

Whereas, in spite of valiant efforts by the public health community, safety net clinics and public insurance programs, the numbers of uninsured who have limited access continue to grow; and

Whereas the lack of health insurance and the cost of treatment is a major barrier to accessing prevention and treatment services and has severe health and financial impacts on families who struggle to obtain care and pay medical bills.

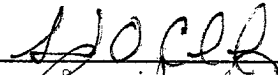

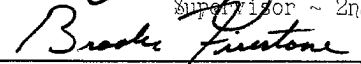
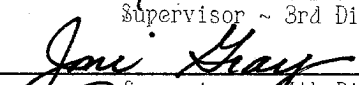

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY ORDERED AND RESOLVED that this Board of Supervisors proclaims May 1 through May 7 as Cover the Uninsured Week in Santa Barbara County and recognizes the urgency of seeking solutions to extend health insurance coverage to all county residents.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of Santa Barbara County, State of California, this second day of May 2006.



ATTEST:


Clerk of the Board


Supervisor ~ 1st District

Supervisor ~ 2nd District

Supervisor ~ 3rd District

Supervisor ~ 4th District

Supervisor ~ 5th District