

1 **[Urging the Board of Supervisors to hold a hearing on the impacts of the anti-abortion**
2 **messages displayed on City-managed lamp posts and the City's Efforts to Educate Youth**
3 **about their reproductive rights and health]**

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5 Supplemental Information

6 During January 2015, banners claiming that "Abortion Hurts Women" were displayed on City-managed
7 lampposts along Market street. These statements spread scientifically false public health statements
8 about abortions, which are only dangerous to women and girls when they are illegal. Abortions, since
9 their legalization in 1973, are considered very safe medical procedures. The attack on safe and legal
10 abortions poses a risk to all women, especially young women.

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12 Young people need access to accurate information and to education about reproductive health,
13 including our right to a safe, legal abortion. Compared to adults, youth may be less knowledgeable
14 about this issue, and may be especially vulnerable to the statements displayed on Market St. The
15 decision about how to respond to an unplanned pregnancy is one of the most difficult a young woman
16 may ever face. It is wrong that some actors try to manipulate young women's decision-making with
17 false and shaming statements that may lead young women and girls to consider taking unsafe and
18 uninformed actions.

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21 Nationally, almost 615,000 U.S. women aged 15-19 become pregnant each year. The neighborhoods
22 in which the banners were displayed are home to youth and families and are among the City's lowest-
23 income neighborhoods, which have the highest rates of low-weight birth, and emergency room visits
24 for pregnancy. Overall, 32.3% of the 202 adolescent births in San Francisco in 2012 occurred in areas
25 of concentrated poverty.

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The Mayor and members of the Board introduced legislation last year ensuring women have the ability to access reproductive health facilities without harassment, and the Board of Supervisors unanimously passed a resolution opposing these same banners last year. Still, the placement of the banners on lamp posts may give the unfortunate impression of public endorsement of the messages.

We therefore urge the Board of Supervisors to hold a hearing addressing the impacts of the anti-abortion messages displayed on Market street and the City's efforts to educate young people about their reproductive rights and health.



Michel Li
2014-2015 Youth Commission Chair
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