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**MAYOR EDWIN LEE, SUPERVISOR JEFF SHEEHY URGE BAY AREA  
RESIDENTS TO UNITE FOR AFFORDABLE HEALTHCARE AT THIS  
SUNDAY'S AIDS WALK SAN FRANCISCO**

*AIDS Walk takes on added urgency just days before  
Senate vote on bill that could strip healthcare away from millions*

SAN FRANCISCO, CA – Thousands will gather in Golden Gate Park at this Sunday's AIDS Walk San Francisco (AWSF), both in support of the people living with HIV/AIDS, and to rally against the Senate healthcare bill, coming up for a vote as soon as Monday after the Walk. If passed, the legislation would throw millions of people with HIV and other pre-existing conditions off their insurance.

At UCSF's AIDS Walk fundraiser and AIDS Memorial Quilt dedication held on Thursday, July 12, **Mayor Ed Lee** and **Supervisor Jeff Sheehy** each urged Bay Area residents to come together to protect access to healthcare while continuing to work toward zero deaths, new infections, and stigma in the fight against AIDS.

At the very first AIDS Walk, Supervisor Sheehy recalled, "People across the community came together in the spirit of solidarity and resistance against Reagan, who would not even say the words HIV and AIDS. When you walk this Sunday, think about the arc of history you're participating in. At AIDS Walk San Francisco, we will continue the resistance."

"Let's celebrate all that we've accomplished over the past 30 years," said Mayor Lee, who then struck a serious tone after praising the Bay Area's efforts in the fight against AIDS. "We need to finish the quilt, not add more names to it. Referring to the upcoming Senate vote, Mayor Lee said, "this is the wrong time to abandon the very foundation of our efforts."

"This Sunday, we will gather to make the point that we care about people with HIV, heart disease, cancer, and every pre-existing condition," said Craig Miller, AIDS Walk Founder and Senior Organizer. "That is the message we want to send out on Sunday, just days ahead of the Senate vote."

The 10-kilometer walk begins and ends in Golden Gate Park. Celebrities at the Opening Ceremony will include Grammy Award-winning singer **Estelle**, **Frenchie Davis** (*The Voice*), **Carson Kressley**

(*RuPaul's Drag Race*), actor and comedian **Hal Sparks**, and the cast of *Ain't Too Proud - The Temptations* musical. ABC-7 News Anchor **Dan Ashley** will be on hand to co-host the Opening Ceremony.

**Project Inform, Health Access California**, and the long-term HIV survivor group **Let's Kick ASS** will lead a sign-making and rally effort as people gather in Sharon Meadow before the Walk. Participants are encouraged to customize signs, available at the event, that convey their commitment to those living with pre-existing conditions, and to protecting access to affordable healthcare for all.

In addition to Mayor Lee and Supervisor Sheehy, other elected officials (with more expected to RSVP) will include California State Senator **Scott Weiner**, San Francisco Supervisors **Sandra Lee Fewer**, and **Mike Farrell**, San Mateo County Supervisor **David J. Canepa**, and Alameda Mayor **Trish Spencer**.

A post-Walk show will be held for participants, featuring special performances by **Estelle, Frenchie Davis, PUSH** and *RuPaul's Drag Race* stars **ChiChi DeVayne, Delta Work, Ginger Minj, Manila Luzon, and Peppermint**. **Carson Kressley** will host. Participants who have raised \$200 or more will enjoy access to an exclusive VIP lounge, including posh front row seats, food, soft drinks, beer and wine.

Since 1987, AWSF has raised more than \$89 million for dozens of Bay Area HIV/AIDS service organizations and has long been Northern California's largest AIDS fundraising event.

**WHAT:** AIDS Walk San Francisco (AWSF)

**WHEN:** Sunday, July 16, 2017

**WHO:** Thousands of supporters from throughout the Bay Area will be in attendance.

**WHERE:** Sharon Meadow, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, CA  
[Venue map](#): click on link

**EVENT SCHEDULE: AIDS Walk is on – RAIN or SHINE – Sunday, July 16!**

**8:30 a.m. MEDIA CHECK-IN:** All media can check in to the left of the AIDS Walk stage in Sharon Meadow. Due to limited space, only satellite vans will be allowed parking. Enter at Martin Luther King Drive off Kezar. All others visit <http://sf.aidswalk.net/Day-of-Event-Info> for directions and maps.

**For press credentials and to request satellite van parking, please email or call Ben Fordham at 415.615.9255, 213.590.6918, or email [benf@aidswalk.net](mailto:benf@aidswalk.net).**

General Sign-In for the event is in Sharon Meadow at the intersections of Kezar Drive and Kennedy Drive.

**SIGN-MAKING, LED BY PROJECT INFORM, HEALTH ACCESS, AND LET'S KICK ASS:** Participants are invited to make a sign conveying their commitment to affordable healthcare for those living with pre-existing conditions. Materials will be provided.

**9:30 a.m. AEROBIC WARMUP** led by Oakland-based dance troupe, Culture Shock.

**9:45 a.m. OPENING CEREMONY AND RALLY** (at the stage in Sharon Meadow)

**10:30 a.m. AIDS WALK BEGINS:** Walkers step out onto the route through Golden Gate Park.

**PHOTOS AND INTERVIEWS WITH VIPS:** stage left immediately following the Opening Ceremony at step and repeat.

**1:30 p.m. POST-WALK SHOW** (at stage): Featuring performances by Grammy Award-winning singer **Estelle**, **Frenchie Davis**, **PUSH** (fronted by ABC-7 News Anchor Dan Ashley), *RuPaul's DragRace* stars **Carson Kressley**, **ChiChi DeVayne**, **Delta Work**, **Ginger Minj**, **Manila Luzon**, and **Peppermint**.

**CONFIDENTIAL HIV TESTING** (next to stage area): Provided by UCSF Alliance Health Project/AIDS Health Project.

**MORE:** Walker registration information: For information about participating in or making a contribution to AIDS Walk San Francisco, please call 415.615.9255 (WALK) or visit [sf.aidswalk.net](http://sf.aidswalk.net).

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**About the AIDS Walk San Francisco Foundation:** The AIDS Walk San Francisco Foundation is the governing body of AIDS Walk San Francisco. It is composed of a Board of Directors intimately familiar with the Walk and the communities it serves. The Board oversees the event's production and finances as well as determines how the event's net proceeds are distributed. Beneficiaries of each year's AIDS Walk are determined by the Board well in advance of the event to ensure an informed community of participants and donors.

**About AIDS Walk San Francisco:** Since 1987, AIDS Walk San Francisco has raised more than \$89 million for lifesaving HIV prevention, testing, and care programs and services, and has grown into the largest AIDS fundraising event in Northern California. AIDS Walk San Francisco has become a Bay Area tradition, bringing together tens of thousands of participants and volunteers; hundreds of corporate, community, and friends and family teams; and hundreds of thousands of donors from the Bay Area and across the country. AIDS Walk San Francisco is a project of the AIDS Walk San Francisco Foundation. This year's event benefits [Positive Resource Center](#), [Project Open Hand](#), [UCSF's Ward 86](#), and many other Bay Area AIDS service organizations. For more information, visit [sf.aidswalk.net](http://sf.aidswalk.net).

**About MZA Events:** AIDS Walk San Francisco was founded in 1987 by Craig R. Miller and his organization of activists, MZA Events. Miller is the AIDS Walk originator and has produced hundreds of public service campaigns and fundraising events, generating more than \$400 million for major AIDS organizations throughout the country. For more information, please visit [www.mzaevents.com](http://www.mzaevents.com).