

1 [Supporting California State Assembly Bill No. 2054 (Kamlager) - Community Response  
2 Initiative to Strengthen Emergency Systems (C.R.I.S.E.S.) Act]

3 **Resolution supporting California State Assembly Bill No. 2054, authored by Assembly**  
4 **Member Sydney Kamlager of District 54, to establish the Community Response**  
5 **Initiative to Strengthen Emergency Systems (C.R.I.S.E.S) Act pilot grant program,**  
6 **which will promote community-based responses to local emergency situations.**  
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8 WHEREAS, The California State Legislature is currently considering passage of  
9 Assembly Bill No. 2054 (AB 2054) which would establish the Community Response Initiative  
10 to Strengthen Emergency Systems (C.R.I.S.E.S) Act pilot grant program to expand  
11 community organizations' involvement in responding to emergency situations; and

12 WHEREAS, Vulnerable populations including young people of color, people with  
13 disabilities, people who are gender nonconforming, people who are formerly incarcerated,  
14 people with immigration status issues, and people who are unhoused or homeless, face  
15 significant barriers to engaging with law enforcement and other first responder personnel; and

16 WHEREAS, Data demonstrates that these populations often do not reach out for  
17 needed help when dealing with crises in their communities because of their fear and  
18 challenges with engaging law enforcement, putting lives and families at risk for continued  
19 harm and trauma; and

20 WHEREAS, AB 2054 acknowledges that while we have traditionally relied on law  
21 enforcement officers to respond to crisis, integrating a community response is essential to the  
22 health and welfare of communities with diverse backgrounds and needs; and

23 WHEREAS, Police presence sometimes escalates situations by causing fear in the  
24 person experiencing crisis, who is subject to both the risk of arrest and the police use of force,  
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1 and which in worst case scenarios, results in unnecessary and unjust deaths and serious  
2 bodily injury to those who simply need the care and support of trained professionals; and

3 WHEREAS, San Francisco Police Department estimates that up to 80% of calls for  
4 service in the city are for people in mental crisis and that police officers bring close to 4,000  
5 people to psychiatric facilities per year; and

6 WHEREAS, Many law enforcement officers serve as the means of transport to an  
7 emergency room, jail, or psychiatric facility, even though police are not mental health experts,  
8 crisis counselors or service providers with a track record of successfully working with  
9 vulnerable people; and

10 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Police Commission recently approved a resolution  
11 encouraging city officials to find alternatives to a police response to homelessness and AB  
12 2054 remedies the significant, unnecessary costs associated with officers as first-responders  
13 for mental health crises, instances of intimate partner violence, and other situations that arise  
14 in our communities; and

15 WHEREAS, Community organizations citywide and across the state have successfully  
16 responded to emergencies affecting unhoused people, people experiencing a mental health  
17 crisis, people exposed to intimate partner or community violence, people experiencing  
18 substance abuse, and people impacted by natural or climate disasters; and

19 WHEREAS, Innovative community organization-based approaches have strengthened  
20 the response to emergencies in places throughout the state by deepening impact, preventing  
21 violence, deescalating volatile situations, protecting property and the environment, reducing  
22 law enforcement use of force, and ensuring the health and safety of communities while, at the  
23 same time, saving money by decreasing calls for service and the sole reliance upon first  
24 responders for emergency situations; and

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1           WHEREAS, AB 2054 recognizes the important role community based organizations  
2 play in responding to emergencies involving vulnerable populations, and that involving  
3 community organizations which have deeper knowledge and understanding of the issues,  
4 trusted relationships with the people and communities involved, and specific knowledge and  
5 relationships surrounding the emergency is cost-effective, and

6           WHEREAS, The state does not have a policy, a set of protocols, or dedicated funding  
7 to support community organizations' involvement, and AB 2054 articulates a policy framework  
8 and budget request to allow to build capacity in, and to make grants for community  
9 organizations to support emergency response; now, therefore, be it

10           RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco  
11 strongly supports California Assembly Bill 2054; and, be it

12           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San  
13 Francisco directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit copies of this Resolution to the California  
14 State Legislature and the City Lobbyist upon passage.

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