

1 [Comprehensive Immigration Reform Including Same-Sex Couples]

2
3 **Resolution urging Congress to pass an inclusive comprehensive immigration reform**
4 **that includes all families, including same-sex couples.**
5

6
7 WHEREAS, Every American is entitled to equal protection under the law; and

8 WHEREAS, A driving goal under U.S. immigration law is family unification and the
9 ability of families and individuals to reside legally in the U.S., engaging fully in our country's
10 rich civil traditions and form of government; and

11 WHEREAS, Federal law does not currently recognize permanent same-sex partners
12 for immigration purposes; and

13 WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco celebrates and respects all
14 immigrant groups and all families, including those of LGBT families; and

15 WHEREAS, Current U.S. immigration law discriminates against a U.S. citizen or lawful
16 permanent resident and his or her foreign-born partner, by not allowing the sponsorship of the
17 foreign partner to apply for immigration benefits, although an opposite-sex couple would have
18 the right to do so; and

19 WHEREAS, This form of discrimination and unfair treatment under the law has
20 devastating and life-altering consequences for same-sex couples; and

21 WHEREAS, The inability to sponsor a same-sex partner leaves the couple with the
22 following limited options: 1) choose to remain in a costly long-distance international
23 relationship; 2) choose to live abroad in the foreign partner's country, if allowable; 3) seek a
24 visa, independent of the partnership, for the foreign-born partner, creating a limited duration of
25 legal stay; 4) choose to allow the foreign-born partner to remain undocumented or allow a visa

1 to lapse, creating daily uncertainty and fear of deportation; or 5) terminate the relationship;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, The limited legal options for same-sex partners to keep their relationship
4 unified exacts an enormous emotional, financial, and mental toll, disproportionate to opposite
5 sex couples in bi-national relationships; and

6 WHEREAS, It is estimated that some 40,000 LGBT American citizens are in same-sex
7 bi-national relationships and are affected by lack of rights and protections of their relationships
8 at the federal level; and

9 WHEREAS, Beyond the personal challenges to same-sex couples, the City and County
10 of San Francisco, and the entire country, risks a great loss of talent should the foreign partner
11 and/or the U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident be forced to depart the U.S. to keep the
12 relationship whole in another country; and

13 WHEREAS, Currently pending in the U.S. Congress is the "Uniting American Families
14 Act" (H.R.519/S.296) reintroduced on February 5, 2013 by Representative Jerrold Nadler (D-
15 NY) and on February 13, 2013 by Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT) with bipartisan support; and

16 WHEREAS, The bills call for simply amending existing U.S. immigration law by adding
17 three words – "or permanent partner" – wherever the word "spouse" appears; and

18 WHEREAS, Congress and President Obama want to fix the broken immigration system
19 by enacting Comprehensive Immigration Reform; and

20 WHEREAS, President Obama's framework for Comprehensive Immigration Reform
21 includes language from the Uniting American Families Act and ALL Families; now, therefore,
22 be it

23 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors hereby expresses its
24 support for Congress to enact the passage of a Comprehensive immigration Reform bill that
25 will include the language of the Uniting America Families Act and ALL Families; and, be it

1 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors hereby directs
2 the Clerk of the Board to send a copy of this resolution to the San Francisco Congressional
3 delegation, United States Senator Dianne Feinstein, United States Senator Barbara Boxer,
4 Senate Judiciary Committee Chair Senator Patrick Leahy, House Judiciary Chair
5 Representative Goodlatte, Ranking Member Representative John Conyers, Jr, and to bill
6 sponsor Representative Jerrold Nadler (D-NY).

7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25



City and County of San Francisco

Tails
Resolution

City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

File Number: 130233

Date Passed: June 04, 2013

Resolution urging Congress to pass an inclusive comprehensive immigration reform that includes all families, including same-sex couples.

May 16, 2013 Neighborhood Services and Safety Committee - RECOMMENDED

June 04, 2013 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED

Ayes: 11 - Avalos, Breed, Campos, Chiu, Cohen, Farrell, Kim, Mar, Tang, Wiener and Yee

File No. 130233

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 6/4/2013 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

[Handwritten signature of Angela Calvillo]

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

Unsigned

Mayor

6/13/2013

Date Approved

Date: June 13, 2013

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution, not being signed by the Mayor within the time limit as set forth in Section 3.103 of the Charter, or time waived pursuant to Board Rule 2.14.2, became effective without his approval in accordance with the provision of said Section 3.103 of the Charter or Board Rule 2.14.2.

[Handwritten signature of Angela Calvillo]

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

File No.
130233