

1 [Supporting the Statewide Action for Public Education Day – March 4, 2010]

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3 **Resolution expressing support for the March 4th, 2010 Day of Statewide Action in**
4 **recognition of public education as a basic human right.**

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6 WHEREAS, Along with such things as access to healthy food, affordable housing and
7 the need to protect the most vulnerable among us, education is a basic human right that
8 should be adequately provided by government; and

9 WHEREAS, Public education has all too often been the first thing to experience
10 reductions when the budget gets tight in the state of California; and,

11 WHEREAS, California ranks 47th in the nation for per-pupil spending; and,

12 WHEREAS, Thirty years ago 10% of California’s budget went to higher education and
13 3% to prisons, today we spend 11% for prisons and 7.5% for higher education; and,

14 WHEREAS, Continuous cuts to institutions of public education are unjust and are
15 synonymous with cuts to basic human rights; and,

16 WHEREAS, On February 23, 2010, the same evening that the San Francisco Board of
17 Education voted to support Ethnic Studies classes in public high schools, the School Board
18 also voted to lay off 100 teachers because of budget cuts; and,

19 WHEREAS, San Francisco public schools face a deficit of \$113 million for fiscal year
20 2010-2011; and,

21 WHEREAS, Young San Franciscans will also bear the weight of cuts to resources
22 outside of school, including cuts to the Department of Children, Youth and Their Families, the
23 Human Services Agency, the Municipal Transportation Agency, the Department of Public
24 Health and the Juvenile Probation Department in the amounts of \$11,088,453, \$28,446,948,
25 \$53,000,000, \$106,000,000 and \$7,600,000, respectively; and,

1 WHEREAS, The more California cuts the funding of its educational system, the more
2 California public school students will suffer in their development as human beings; and,

3 WHEREAS, Graduating from high school is an overwhelmingly strong indicator of
4 general outcomes in life; and,

5 WHEREAS, The public burden of the current economic crisis should not be placed on
6 the backs of our young people and their education—nor on the backs of our educators; and,

7 WHEREAS, The March 4th Day of Action is a demonstration of unity between students,
8 educators, and parents on all levels of California’s public education system, from pre-K to high
9 school to community colleges to state colleges and universities; and,

10 WHEREAS, The goal of March 4th is to defend public education from falling victim to
11 more mass budget cuts; and,

12 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Youth Commission unanimously adopted this
13 resolution to show support and solidarity with the March 4th, 2010 Day of Statewide Action for
14 Public Education in California and looks forward to gathering in Sacramento on March 22 to
15 impress the same demands on our state government; now, therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors supports the efforts of the
17 Youth Commission and recognizes public education as a basic human right; and, be it

18 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors supports the March 4th, 2010
19 Day of Statewide Action for public education.
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