

1 [Urging the Pardon of Aylaliya “Liyah” Birru]

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3 **Resolution urging Governor Gavin Newsom to pardon Aylaliya “Liyah” Birru and stop**  
4 **her deportation.**

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6 WHEREAS, According to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, an act of  
7 domestic violence occurs every 15 seconds in the United States, with four women losing their  
8 lives daily. On average, nearly 20 people per minute are physically abused by an intimate  
9 partner in the United States; and

10 WHEREAS, According to the Center for Disease Control 1 in 4 American women will  
11 experience domestic violence over the course of their lives; and

12 WHEREAS, Liyah met her husband, a US citizen, in Ethiopia where he was stationed  
13 with the United States military, and later she moved to Northern California to live with him; and

14 WHEREAS, Once in the US, Liyah experienced increasingly severe and life-  
15 threatening physical abuse from her husband; and

16 WHEREAS, Aylaliya “Liyah” Birru, a Black immigrant from Ethiopia, in an attempt to  
17 defend herself, injured her husband, was prosecuted and accepted a plea deal without  
18 understanding the potential future consequences to her immigration status; and

19 WHEREAS, Black women, particularly immigrants, are criminalized, incarcerated and  
20 deported at over twice the rate of white women, making Aylaliya “Liyah” Birru’s story far from  
21 exceptional; and

22 WHEREAS, On November 27, 2018, Aylaliya “Liyah” Birru completed her sentence at  
23 Folsom State Prison, and was transferred directly to Yuba County Jail for immigration  
24 detention, where she now faces the added punishment of deportation because she is an  
25 immigrant; and

1           WHEREAS, On March 2, 2019, the national #FreeLiyah campaign was launched to  
2 stop Aylaliya “Liyah” Birru’s deportation, garnering over 75,000 signatures in support for her  
3 freedom; and

4           WHEREAS, Incarcerated people are at a higher risk of infection due in the COVID-19  
5 global pandemic; and

6           WHEREAS, Each day that Aylaliya “Liyah” Birru spends in detention in excess of her  
7 original sentence increases her risk of being infected with coronavirus; and

8           WHEREAS, On March 26, 2019, Aylaliya “Liyah” Birru filed a pardon application to the  
9 office of California Governor Gavin Newsom; and

10           WHEREAS, Governor Gavin Newsom can immediately stop Aylaliya “Liyah” Birru’s  
11 deportation, and A gubernatorial pardon is the only clear path for Aylaliya “Liyah” Birru’s  
12 freedom and reunification with her loved ones and family in San Francisco; now, therefore, be  
13 it

14           RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco  
15 supports Aylaliya "Liyah" Birru's safe return to her family and community in San Francisco;  
16 and, it be

17           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges California  
18 Governor Gavin Newsom to grant a pardon to Aylaliya “Liyah” Birru to stop her deportation;  
19 and, be it

20           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors supports all  
21 survivors of domestic and sexual violence survivors, regardless of their criminal convictions  
22 and immigration status; and be it

23           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors hereby directs  
24 the Clerk of Board to transmit a copy of this Resolution to Governor Gavin Newsom.

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