

1 [Supporting California Governor Gavin Newsom’s March 2024 Ballot Initiative Proposition 1]

2

3 **Resolution supporting Proposition 1, Governor Gavin Newsom’s March 2024 ballot**  
4 **initiative to modernize California’s behavioral healthcare system, comprised of Senate**  
5 **Bill No. 326, an update of the Mental Health Services Act authored by Senator Susan**  
6 **Talamantes Eggman, and Assembly Bill No. 531, a \$6,380,000,000 General Obligation**  
7 **Bond authored by Assembly Member Jacqui Irwin intended to build more than 11,150**  
8 **new behavioral health beds and housing, and 26,700 outpatient treatment slots across**  
9 **California.**

10

11 WHEREAS, In California, 82% of people experiencing homelessness suffer from  
12 mental health issues; and

13 WHEREAS, In 2023, 806 people died in San Francisco from accidental drug  
14 overdoses, more than any other year on record; and

15 WHEREAS, Since California began shuttering State hospitals in the 1950s and shifting  
16 responsibility to counties to finance and implement mental health services, people  
17 experiencing severe mental illness have become overrepresented in the State's carceral  
18 system, with more than half of the over 93,000 inmates incarcerated in California state prisons  
19 being treated for varying levels of mental illness; and

20 WHEREAS, As the number of mental health treatment beds per 100,000 people in  
21 California decreased 31% from 1998 through 2017, the State currently faces a shortage of at  
22 least 6,000 beds to care for patients with mental health disorders, and its need for treatment  
23 beds will continue to grow; and

24 WHEREAS, California's lack of mental health infrastructure and facilities to meet acute,  
25 subacute, and community residential levels of care has contributed to system bottlenecks, and

1 California's five State hospitals, which treat the most critically ill patients, have a severe  
2 shortage of beds with wait times of one year or longer; and

3 WHEREAS, The Mental Health Services Act (MHSA), authored by then-Senator Darrell  
4 Steinberg and passed as Proposition 63 by voters in 2004, instituted a 1% income tax on  
5 personal income in excess of \$1,000,000 per year to fund a continuum of prevention, early  
6 intervention, and service needs for those experiencing or at risk of severe mental illness; and

7 WHEREAS, The MHSA requires reform to better align with current service gaps across  
8 the State, including to ensure resources for people with the most acute behavioral health  
9 issues and substance use disorders; and

10 WHEREAS, Senate Bill No. 326 (SB 326), authored by Senator Susan Talamantes  
11 Eggman and signed into California law on October 12, 2023, authorized the placement on the  
12 March 2024 ballot of an update to the MHSA, which would expand services to include  
13 treatment for Substance Use Disorders (SUD) alone and allow counties to use funds in  
14 combination with federal funds to expand SUD services; and

15 WHEREAS, SB 326 also requires that 30% of county MHSA allocations, which equates  
16 to almost \$1,000,000,000 per year, be reserved for housing interventions for children and  
17 families, youth, adults, and older adults living with severe mental illness, severe emotional  
18 disturbance, and/or SUD who are experiencing homelessness or are at risk of homelessness,  
19 which include rental subsidies, operating subsidies, shared housing, and family housing; and

20 WHEREAS, SB 326 addresses California's acute behavioral health workforce shortage  
21 by providing at least 3% of annual MHSA funds for the California Health and Human Services  
22 Agency to implement a statewide behavioral health workforce initiative; and

23 WHEREAS, California State Assembly Bill No. 531 (AB 531), authored by Assembly  
24 Member Jacqui Irwin and signed into California law on October 12, 2023, authorized the  
25 placement of a \$6,380,000,000 General Obligation Bond for the March 2024 ballot intended to

1 fund the construction, acquisition, and rehabilitation of residential care settings for individuals  
2 with behavioral health needs, increasing the availability of care settings that support  
3 rehabilitation and recovery; and

4 WHEREAS, Approximately 70% of veterans experiencing homelessness are affected  
5 by SUD, and AB 531 dedicates \$1,000,000,000 in bond funding to be disbursed as grants for  
6 new construction, acquisition, rehabilitation, or preservation of affordable multifamily housing  
7 to provide interim, transitional, and permanent supportive housing for veterans who are  
8 homeless, or at risk of homelessness, and living with behavioral health challenges; and

9 WHEREAS, On July 18, 2023, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors voted  
10 unanimously to support Governor Gavin Newsom’s 2024 ballot initiative proposal, which  
11 included SB 326 and AB 531; now, therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors supports Proposition 1,  
13 Governor Gavin Newsom’s March 2024 ballot initiative to modernize California’s behavioral  
14 healthcare system, comprised of SB 326, an update of the Mental Health Services Act  
15 authored by Senator Susan Talamantes Eggman, and AB 531, a \$6,380,000,000 General  
16 Obligation Bond authored by Assembly Member Jacqui Irwin intended to build more than  
17 11,150 new behavioral health beds and housing and 26,700 outpatient treatment slots across  
18 California.

19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25