

1 [Supporting California State Assembly Bill No. 2479 (Haney) - An Act to Amend the Housing  
First Act of 2016]

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3 **Resolution supporting California State Assembly Bill No. 2479, an act to amend and**  
4 **add sober living facilities to the Housing First Act of 2016, authored by Assembly**  
5 **Member Matt Haney, to enable state investment in drug free recovery.**

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7 WHEREAS, Senate Bill 1380, also known as the Housing First Act, was passed by  
8 California Legislature in 2016 to require all housing programs to adopt policies centered  
9 around the goal of removing barriers to providing housing for anyone experiencing  
10 homelessness, connecting unhoused individuals to a safe and permanent place to live; and

11 WHEREAS, There are thousands of people experiencing homelessness that desire to  
12 live in drug free recovery living arrangements yet are unable to access abstinence-based  
13 housing because it is inaccessible, limited, and unsupported by state investment; and

14 WHEREAS, The lack of accessible sober living facilities forces people to live in housing  
15 that isn't suited to support individuals attempting to stay on the path to recovery, exacerbating  
16 substance abuse, mental health issues, and return to homelessness; and

17 WHEREAS, Drug free recovery housing supports individuals' sobriety journeys as  
18 those in recovery are at higher risk of relapsing, overdosing, or returning to homelessness  
19 when surrounded by substances in their homes; and

20 WHEREAS, The potency, prevalence, and price of Fentanyl increases the risk of  
21 relapse and has contributed to making Fentanyl responsible for the overwhelming number of  
22 overdose fatalities in San Francisco in 2023; and

23 WHEREAS, If enacted, Assembly Bill 2479 would ensure that an individual relapsing  
24 would not be a cause for eviction but instead would provide these individuals with relapse

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1 recovery assistance through detoxification programs and intensive peer-to-peer support so  
2 that they can resume their recovery from addiction; and

3 WHEREAS, If enacted, Assembly Bill 2479 would allow participants to be placed in  
4 alternate housing programs practicing harm-reduction principles should they be disruptive to  
5 the surrounding recovery community's sobriety or are no longer interested in a recovery-  
6 model housing program; and

7 WHEREAS, Tenants have the ability to apply to reenter the drug free housing program  
8 if they demonstrate a renewed commitment to living in a community focused around recovery  
9 principles with an abstinence focus; and

10 WHEREAS, Assembly Bill No. 2479 promotes long-term housing stability by aligning  
11 with participants' prioritization of sustained recovery and sobriety from substance use, thus  
12 aiming to reduce returns to homelessness caused by relapse; and

13 WHEREAS, Assembly Bill No. 2479 is consistent with the core components of the  
14 Housing First Act, enabling state investment in drug free housing programs that enhance  
15 recovery from addiction and ensuring that any unhousing individuals, including those  
16 embracing sobriety, do not face barriers to achieving housing; now therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco  
18 hereby endorses Assembly Bill No. 2479; and be it

19 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Board is hereby directed to transmit  
20 copies of this Resolution to Governor Gavin Newsom, President pro Tempore Mike McGuire,  
21 Speaker of the State Assembly Robert Rivas, State Senator Scott Wiener, Assembly Member  
22 Matt Haney, Assembly Member Phil Ting, as a demonstration of the Board's support for  
23 Assembly Bill No. 2479 and its commitment to recognizing drug free recovery housing is  
24 consistent with Housing First Policy and allows these residential programs to receive state  
25 support in California.