

1 [Supporting H.R. 4423 Ethiopia Consolidation Act]

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3 **Resolution supporting the Ethiopia Consolidation Act of 2005 (H.R. 4423)**

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5 WHEREAS, The Ethiopia Consolidation Act (H.R. 4423), directs the President of the  
6 United States through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), to  
7 revise the USAID country plan for Ethiopia to ensure economic stability, and growth with  
8 confidence in a legitimate government in Ethiopia that protects the human rights of its people;  
9 and,

10 WHEREAS, The Ethiopia Consolidation Act (H.R. 4423), sponsored by Representative  
11 Christopher H. Smith [NJ-4] encourages and facilitates the consolidation of security, human  
12 rights, democracy, and economic freedom in Ethiopia; and,

13 WHEREAS, Despite improvements in its human rights record, the Government of the  
14 Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia continues to violate the internationally-established  
15 rights of its citizens; and,

16 WHEREAS, These violations include the June 2005 shooting by government security  
17 forces of more than 40,000 election demonstrators, arbitrary or politically-motivated arrests,  
18 long detentions without charge or trial, beatings and torture, and increased human rights  
19 violations in the aftermath of the May 15, 2005 elections and subsequent protests of  
20 suspected election fraud; and,

21 WHEREAS, This is the second attempt by the House of Representatives to secure fair  
22 and democratic elections, economic freedom and human rights, the first attempt being H.R.  
23 935, a bill introduced in February of 2005, which urged the Government of Ethiopia to hold  
24 orderly, peaceful, free, and fair national elections in May 2005 and to authorize United States  
25 assistance for elections-related activities to monitor the election; and,

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**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Page 1

4/04/2006

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FILE NO.

RESOLUTION NO.

1           WHEREAS, In March 2005 before the election, the Government of Ethiopia expelled  
2 three United States Democracy Organizations, the International Republican Institute, the  
3 National Democratic Institute, and the International Foundation of Electoral Systems, that  
4 were there to ensure fair and legal elections; and,

5           WHEREAS, The Government of Ethiopia has failed to meet a July 18, 2005 deadline to  
6 release final results of the May 15, 2005 election and continues to refuse to release detailed  
7 results of their balloting, creating ongoing suspicion about the validity of the election; and,

8           WHEREAS, Readmitting the International Republican Institute, the National  
9 Democratic Institute, and the International Foundation for Electoral Systems would show good  
10 faith by the Government of Ethiopia that they are taking steps to ensure strong governmental  
11 practices; and,

12           WHEREAS, Government stability is essential for economic prosperity and the growth of  
13 a nation; and,

14           WHEREAS, Support for economic development is essential to the progress of Ethiopia,  
15 including the freedom of independent broadcasting of radio and TV being a form of education  
16 in a country with a literacy rate of less than 50 percent, proper training for Police and Security  
17 recognized by the international standards of arresting, interrogating, handling, and detaining  
18 and proper support for Human Rights training; and,

19           WHEREAS, H.R. 4423 is on file with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors in File No.  
20 , which is hereby declared to be part of this resolution as if set forth fully herein; and,

21           WHEREAS, The United States is dedicated to assisting the development of Ethiopia  
22 into a partner nation and forging a lasting relationship with Ethiopia in common vision for a  
23 safer world; now, therefore, be it

24           RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco supports the Ethiopia  
25 Consolidation Act of 2005 (H.R. 4423); now, therefore, be it

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**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Page 2  
7/27/2011

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FILE NO.

RESOLUTION NO.

1           FURTHER RESOLVED, That we urge the president to sign the bill as soon as possible  
2 to prevent any more human rights violations from occurring; now, therefore, be it

3           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors directs the Clerk to send a copy  
4 of this resolution to our federal representatives and the offices of the sponsoring senators.

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**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Page 3

7/27/2011

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FILE NO.

RESOLUTION NO.

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