

1 [Opposing Sex-Selective Abortion Bans]

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3 **Resolution affirming San Francisco’s opposition to “Sex-Selective Abortion Bans” that**
4 **perpetuate racial stereotypes.**

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6 WHEREAS, In 2014, sex-selective abortion bans have become the second-most
7 proposed abortion ban in the United States, introduced in 21 states and passed in 8 states,
8 including Illinois, Pennsylvania, Oklahoma, Kansas, North Carolina, North Dakota, Arizona,
9 and South Dakota; and

10 WHEREAS, A sex-selective abortion ban prohibits abortions performed on the basis of
11 sex; doctors who perform such a procedure could face jail time, fines or lawsuits from a
12 patient or her spouse, parent, sibling or guardian; a doctor or nurse who suspects a patient is
13 seeking a sex-selective abortion is required to report her to authorities; and

14 WHEREAS, Lawmakers across the country have successfully advocated for sex-
15 selective abortion bans by perpetuating false and harmful racial stereotypes that such laws
16 are necessary to stop an influx of Asian immigrants from spreading this practice and that
17 Asian American communities do not value the lives of women; and

18 WHEREAS, Sex-selective abortion bans encourage racial profiling of women by some
19 medical providers, can lead to the denial of reproductive health care services to women by
20 some medical providers, and lead to further stigmatization of women, particularly Asian
21 American women; and

22 WHEREAS, In 2012, a sex-selective abortion ban was proposed in the U.S. Congress,
23 benignly named the Prenatal Nondiscrimination Act, and in February 2014, a similar measure
24 was proposed by California State Assembly, AB 2336 by Assemblywoman Shannon Grove;
25 and

1 WHEREAS, Some versions of sex-selective abortion bans have also included a race-
2 selective ban, that would ban abortions performed on the basis of race and are based on
3 suggestions that African American women are not capable of responsible reproductive health
4 decisions and that abortion providers have a racist agenda; and

5 WHEREAS, The State of Arizona is currently facing a lawsuit brought against its race-
6 and sex-selective ban by the American Civil Liberties Union, National Association for the
7 Advancement of Colored People and National Asian Pacific American Women’s Forum, for
8 being unconstitutionally discriminatory against African American and Asian American women;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, A coalition of Asian American and reproductive rights, health and justice
11 organizations has formed to educate the public about the stereotyping inherent in sex-
12 selective abortion bans, to condemn the rhetoric of ban advocates as deeply offensive, and to
13 organize to defeat such discriminatory policies; and

14 WHEREAS, No city or state in the country has yet taken a position to publicly oppose
15 sex-selective abortion bans; now, therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges the California State
17 Legislature to reject any future attempts to pass a state sex-selective abortion ban; and, be it

18 FURTHER RESOLVED, The San Francisco Board of Supervisors calls upon other
19 cities, states and the federal government to likewise reject these discriminatory measures.

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