

1 [Support of SB 987, improving language access to government services.]

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3 **Resolution supporting Senate Bill 987, improving language access to government**
4 **services.**

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6 WHEREAS, Language barriers can deprive California residents of critical services,
7 including health care, labor and fair wage protection, and the ability to leave or avoid welfare;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, The lack of language-appropriate services can lead to unjust and tragic
10 consequences; and

11 WHEREAS, the City and County of San Francisco have been in the forefront of efforts
12 to recognize and respond to the needs and requirements of an increasingly diverse
13 community, including through the use of multiple language documentation as relevant; and

14 WHEREAS, The Dymally-Alatorre Bilingual Services Act, passed in 1973, requires
15 state departments to provide bilingual services when 5% or more of its consumers speak a
16 language other than English; and

17 WHEREAS, Lack of monitoring and enforcement mechanisms in the Dymally-Alatorre
18 Bilingual Services Act have resulted in state departments failing to comply with the law; and

19 WHEREAS, This is exemplified in a recent report by the State Personnel Board that
20 none of the twenty state departments it investigated are in compliance with the Act; and

21 WHEREAS, Senate Bill 987, introduced by Senator Martha Escutia, would address
22 these issues by requiring state departments to develop procedures for implementing the
23 Bilingual Services Act, and for ensuring greater compliance and accountability; and

24 WHEREAS, Senate Bill 987 would further provide the State Personnel Board with the
25 power to monitor and enforce the Bilingual Services Act; now, therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
2 register its support for the passage of SB 987; and, be it

3 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors send a copy of this
4 resolution to Senator John Burton, President Pro Tem of the Senate, and to Senator Martha
5 Matthias, for incorporation into Senate documentation showing support of Senate Bill 987.
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