

1 **[Commending East Bakersfield High School Journalists]**

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3 **Resolution commending East Bakersfield High School Journalism Department and**
4 **student journalists for their courage in attempting to publish a series of news articles**
5 **in their school newspaper on the lives of gay youth and for fighting for their first**
6 **amendment rights to overturn the prohibition imposed by school administrators to**
7 **censor publication of the news series.**

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9 WHEREAS, Questions regarding homosexuality are increasingly less taboo and young
10 people are especially interested in exploring the topic of homosexuality, and

11 WHEREAS, Student journalists in the Kern County-based East Bakersfield High School
12 decided to write a series of articles regarding homosexuality in their high school newspaper,
13 and

14 WHEREAS, The news series on homosexuality included an exploration of the “nature
15 versus nurture” debate, a profile on the lives of gay students on campus, an exposé of the
16 national organization, “Parents, Families and Friends of Gays and Lesbians” and an article
17 focused on opposition to homosexuality from local religious organizations; and

18 WHEREAS, Student editors conferred with the principal of their school, John Gibson,
19 notifying him and the school administration of the intent to publish a series of news articles on
20 current gay issues; and

21 WHEREAS, A meeting was convened between school administrators and the editorial
22 staff of the newspaper and a compromise was reached in which the school administrator
23 agreed that the articles would be allowed to be printed on the condition that the true identities
24 of gay students on campus would not be identified; and

25 WHEREAS, However, on the evening after the compromised was reached, the
principal rescinded authorization to publish the articles; and

1 WHEREAS, East Bakersfield High School editor Travis Mattias, and fellow journalists,
2 Maria Krauter and Joel Paramo filed a lawsuit against the principal of the school, the
3 superintendent, the school trustees and the Kern County School District; and

4 WHEREAS, The plaintiffs hope that the judge will compel school district officials to
5 publish the series of articles on current gay issues; and

6 WHEREAS, Despite opposition against their news series from their school district and
7 their school principle, the students diligently fought to publish their series; now, therefore be it

8 RESOLVED, That Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
9 hereby commends East Bakersfield High School Journalism Department and student
10 journalists for their courage in attempting to publish a series of news articles in their school
11 newspaper on the lives of gay youth and for fighting for their first amendment rights to
12 overturn the prohibition imposed by school administrators to censor publication of the news
13 series; and be it

14 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the principal of East
15 Bakersfield High School, the Kern County Superintendent, the Kern County School Trustees,
16 and the Kern County School District to rescind their censorship of first amendment rights and
17 to expedite the publication of a series of news articles to be published in the East Bakersfield
18 High School newspaper about current issues in the lives of gay American youth.
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