

1 [Urging the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors to Support the Establishment of Required
2 Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Cultural Competency Trainings for Caregivers of
3 Foster Youth (Assembly Bill 1856)]

4 **Resolution urging the Mayor and San Francisco Board of Supervisors to support**
5 **Assembly Bill 1856, which would require caregivers of foster youth to be trained in**
6 **cultural competency and best practices for providing adequate care for lesbian, gay,**
7 **bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning youth.**

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9 WHEREAS, Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning (LGBTQQ)
10 youth are more susceptible to harassment, violence, and discrimination than their straight
11 counterparts; and

12 WHEREAS, 26% of LGBTQQ youth are forced to leave their families of origin as a
13 result of conflicts with their parents regarding their sexual orientation or gender identity, and
14 many of these LGBTQQ youth end up on the street, but some go to foster homes; and,

15 WHEREAS, There are very few studies of LGBTQQ foster youth, but one study in New
16 York City found that 100% of LGBTQQ youth in New York City group homes reported that
17 they were verbally harassed on the basis of their sexual orientation or gender identity while at
18 their group home, 70% reported physical violence due to their sexual orientation or gender
19 identity; and

20 WHEREAS, 78% were removed or ran away from their foster placements as a result of
21 hostility toward their sexual orientation or gender identity, and 56% spent time living on the
22 streets because they felt “safer” there than they did living in their group or foster home; and

23 WHEREAS, 78% of LGBTQQ foster youth don’t feel safe in their group homes because
24 of their gender identity and/or sexual orientation; and

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1 WHEREAS, LGBTQQ foster youth face a great deal of disadvantages, and under the
2 law they deserve equal access to services; and

3 WHEREAS, Assembly Bill 1856, which is currently being considered by the California
4 State Legislature, would require existing training programs for caregivers of foster youth to
5 include cultural competency training to best meet the needs of LGBTQQ foster youth;

6 WHEREAS, On June 18, 2012, the San Francisco Youth Commission adopted
7 resolution 1112—12, which urged this Board of Supervisors to support AB 1856; now,
8 therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges the California State
10 Legislature to support AB 1856, such that providers of foster youth can be adequately trained
11 to meet the unique needs of LGBTQQ foster youth; and be it

12 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors is hereby directed
13 to forward this resolution to the Speaker of the Assembly and President Pro Tem of the
14 Senate of the California State Legislature.

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