

1 [Supporting the Campus Safety and Accountability Act of 2015 - Prevent Sexual Assaults on
2 College and University Campuses, Protect Students, and Create Real Accountability]

3 **Resolution supporting the Campus Safety and Accountability Act of 2015, landmark**
4 **anti-sexual assault legislation that will better protect and empower students, increase**
5 **responsiveness when crimes occur; and establish more transparent and uniform**
6 **accountability standards for colleges and universities.**

7

8 WHEREAS, An American woman aged 18 to 24 is at the highest risk of sexual assault
9 victimization compared to women in all other age groups; and

10 WHEREAS, In 2013 alone, colleges and universities reported over 5,000 forcible sex
11 offenses to the U.S. Department of Education; and

12 WHEREAS, Forty-one percent of schools have not conducted a single investigation of
13 a sexual assault complaint in the last five years and only 10-25% of students found
14 “responsible” for sexual assault were permanently kicked off campus; and

15 WHEREAS, Approximately 80% of sexual assault crimes against undergraduate
16 women go unreported to the police; and

17 WHEREAS, Only 16% of student survivors of sexual assault received assistance from
18 a victims services agency that provides aid in recovery, guidance through the criminal justice
19 system, and/or assistance in obtaining restitution; and

20 WHEREAS, A chronic lack of training of on-campus personnel hampers sexual assault
21 investigations and disciplinary processes, often creating conditions that result in
22 retraumatization of survivors; and

23 WHEREAS, In the City and County of San Francisco, there are more than 105,000
24 students enrolled in the more than twenty local colleges and universities; and

25

1 WHEREAS, San Francisco has long been dedicated to a survivor-centered approach
2 in its anti-violence work, in which the survivor’s wishes, safety, and well-being take priority in
3 all procedures; and

4 WHEREAS, The survivor-centered Campus Safety and Accountability Act (CASA) was
5 introduced on July 7, 2014, by a bipartisan coalition of Senators in the United States Senate,
6 led by Senators Claire McCaskill and Kirsten Gillenbrand, where it failed to pass before the
7 end of the 113th Congress; and

8 WHEREAS, CASA was reintroduced on February 26, 2015, providing the 114th
9 Congress the opportunity to finally pass this critical piece of public safety legislation; and

10 WHEREAS, CASA is intended to curtail the epidemic of sexual violence on college and
11 university campuses by protecting and empowering students, strengthening accountability
12 and transparency for schools, and establishing penalties for non-compliance; and

13 WHEREAS, Under CASA, colleges and universities will be required to designate
14 confidential advisors who will serve as a resource for survivors of assault, and who will also
15 be tasked with coordinating support services and accommodations for survivors, providing
16 information about reporting options, and guidance or assistance in reporting the crime to
17 campus authorities and/or local law enforcement; and

18 WHEREAS, CASA ensures that the confidential advisor, as well as all those
19 responsible for investigating these crimes, and all those participating in disciplinary
20 proceedings, will receive specialized training to ensure that they have a firm understanding of
21 the nature of these crimes and their effect on survivors; and

22 WHEREAS, CASA requires that students at every university in America be surveyed
23 about their experiences with sexual violence so that a more accurate picture of the scope of
24 this crisis can be established; and

25

1 WHEREAS, The new annual survey will be standardized and anonymous, and the
2 results will be published online so that parents, caregivers, and students can make informed
3 decisions when comparing universities; and

4 WHEREAS, CASA will require colleges and universities to enter into memoranda of
5 understanding with all applicable local law enforcement agencies to clearly delineate
6 responsibilities and share information so that when an assault occurs, both campus
7 authorities and local authorities can focus on solving the crime rather than debating
8 jurisdiction; and

9 WHEREAS, Schools that do not comply with certain requirements under CASA may
10 face a penalty of up to one percent of the institution's operating budget; and

11 WHEREAS, CASA is intended to reverse the cover-up culture that exists on campuses
12 by encouraging colleges and universities to prevent sexual assaults, get rid of sexual
13 predators, and educate students and university officials about the problem; and

14 WHEREAS, CASA would have a positive impact on the health and safety of the tens of
15 thousands of students that reside and study here in the City and County of San Francisco;
16 now, therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
18 urges the Congress of the United States to pass the Campus Accountability and Safety Act, or
19 similar legislation, aimed at preventing sexual assaults on campuses and protecting survivors
20 in the event of a crime, and which would require colleges and universities to designate
21 confidential advisors for sexual assault survivors, provide specialized training to ensure that
22 college and university staff properly respond to these kinds of crimes, and provide information
23 regarding sexual assaults on campuses so that individuals are able to make better-informed
24 decisions regarding school choices; and, be it

25

1 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San
2 Francisco hereby directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit copies to Senator Claire McCaskill
3 and the members of Congress from San Francisco and the United States Senators from
4 California with a request to take all action necessary to achieve the objectives of this
5 Resolution.

6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25