

1 [Supporting AB 508 to amend the State Welfare and Institutions Code]

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3 **Resolution in support of Assembly Bill 508, which would amend Section 18901.3 of the**
4 **State Welfare and Institutions Code in order to fully repeal the ban on drug felons'**
5 **eligibility to receive Food Stamps.**

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7 WHEREAS, According to the January 2007 Food Security Task Force Strategic Plan,
8 approximately 150,000 San Franciscans face a daily struggle to put food on their tables; and

9 WHEREAS, The federal food stamp program is available to San Francisco individuals
10 and families at or below 130% of the federal poverty level (\$21,580 for a family of 3); and,

11 WHEREAS, Local public and private resources are over-extended in an effort to meet
12 the food security needs of people with past felony drug convictions otherwise ineligible for
13 food stamp assistance; and,

14 WHEREAS, Former felons who have paid their debt to society could be more efficiently
15 served through the federal food stamp program thus bringing greater post-incarceration
16 stability to their lives; and,

17 WHEREAS, The expenditure of every food stamp dollar spent in the community
18 generates \$1.84 in economic activity; and,

19 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Safe Communities Reentry Council which is dedicated
20 to supporting the safe and successful return of formerly incarcerated individuals to San
21 Francisco, has identified as an overarching strategic priority the need to increase access to
22 individuals with conviction histories to basic government benefits, including Food Stamps;
23 and,

24 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Safe Communities Reentry Council recognizes that
25 poverty is a contributing cause of crime, and that economic and in-kind supports such as Food

1 Stamps are a necessary component of developing a comprehensive support system for
2 formerly incarcerated individuals returning to San Francisco communities; and,

3 WHEREAS, Under current policies and practices, the rate of recidivism of individuals
4 returning from jails and prisons is between 60-70%; and

5 WHEREAS, The current state law on Food Stamps unfairly penalizes individuals who
6 in the past have been convicted of a drug felony, and who currently are living in poverty, and
7 this penalty extends to any children or other dependents living in such households; and,

8 WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco recognizes that access to adequate
9 and nutritious food should be a universal right; now, therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, That Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
11 endorses AB508 as a reasonable effort to support post incarceration reintegration of ex-
12 offenders into their community; and, be it

13 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San
14 Francisco strongly urges the passage of AB 508 to amend Section 18901.3 of the State
15 Welfare and Institutions Code in order that that the ban on drug felons' eligibility to receive
16 Food Stamps be fully repealed; and, be it

17 FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San
18 Francisco hereby directs the Clerk of the Board to forward a copy of this resolution to the
19 Speaker of the California State Assembly and President Pro Tem of the California State
20 Senate for inclusion in the appropriate committee record, to Assemblymember Swanson, AB
21 508's principal sponsor, and to each of the members of the delegation representing San
22 Francisco in the California State Legislature.

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