

1 [Supporting Senate Bill 962 (Leno) - Smartphone Theft Prevention]

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3 **Resolution supporting Senate Bill 962, introduced by Senator Leno, the Smartphone**  
4 **Theft Prevention Act, to require the installation of theft-detering technological**  
5 **solutions on all smartphones sold in the State of California.**

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7 WHEREAS, The theft of mobile devices accounts for one third of all property crimes in  
8 the United States, making it the number one property crime; and

9 WHEREAS, Smartphone theft accounts for over half of all robberies in the City and  
10 County of San Francisco; and

11 WHERAS, Smartphone users are easy targets because of how easily devices can be  
12 stolen and re-sold; and

13 WHEREAS, Mobile device manufacturers and service providers have a corporate  
14 responsibility to ensure the users of their services and products are not targeted or victimized;  
15 and

16 WHEREAS, Street-level crime supplies a vast global black market in stolen personal  
17 devices; and

18 WHEREAS, There is a need for a ubiquitous theft prevention solution such as a “kill  
19 switch” that would act as a strong disincentive to curtail the behavior of thieves; and

20 WHEREAS, The existing Federal Communication Commission stolen smartphone  
21 database has not proven effective due to placing the burden on the victim to add it to the  
22 database, its limitation to the big four domestic carriers, and its inapplicability to phones stolen  
23 and then sold abroad; and

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1           WHEREAS, The wireless industry earns an estimated \$30 billion annually from the  
2 replacement of lost or stolen devices and \$7.8 billion in insurance protection plan premiums;  
3 and

4           WHEREAS, The wireless industry has previously rejected the voluntarily installation of  
5 “kill switch” technology; and

6           WHEREAS, SB 962, the Smartphone Theft Prevention Act, would require all advanced  
7 communications devices (smartphones and tablets) sold in California to come pre-equipped  
8 with a theft-deterring technological solution that renders the essential functions of the device  
9 useless when stolen; and

10           WHEREAS, SB 962 would allow the consumer to affirmatively opt-out of using the  
11 technological solution, but every device must come pre-equipped and enabled with this  
12 technology in order for the deterrent value of the solution to be as effective as possible; and,

13           WHEREAS, SB 962 would not require any solution that infringes on the individual’s  
14 privacy; and

15           WHEREAS, The effect of SB 962 would be to remove the re-sale value of stolen  
16 devices, thus reducing the current incentive for thieves to prey on smartphone users; and

17           WHEREAS, San Francisco District Attorney George Gascon co-chairs the global effort  
18 Secure Our Smartphones and has worked tirelessly to support SB 962 and prevent  
19 smartphone theft through the installation of kill switch technology; and

20           WHEREAS, The California State Senate failed to vote in support of SB 962 on April 24,  
21 2014, but could take the measure up again in May 2014; now, therefore, be it

22           RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco  
23 urges the California State Legislature to pass SB 962, the Smartphone Theft Prevention Act.

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