

1 [Supporting California State Assembly Bill No. 611 (Lee) - The Keep News Independent Act]

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3 **Resolution supporting California State Assembly Bill No. 611, The Keep News**  
4 **Independent Act, introduced by Assembly Member Alex Lee, to promote transparent**  
5 **ownership and protect local journalism in the City and County of San Francisco and**  
6 **across the State of California.**

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8 WHEREAS, Local journalism is essential to inform civic participation, public  
9 accountability, and community connection in the City and County of San Francisco; and

10 WHEREAS, Across California, legacy local newspapers are being quietly purchased by  
11 hedge funds and large corporate chains that often reduce newsroom staffing, cut back on  
12 local reporting, and centralize editorial decision-making far from the communities being  
13 served; and

14 WHEREAS, Since 2004, California has lost 25% of its newspapers, and more than  
15 50% of total newspaper circulation in the U.S. is now controlled by investment firms; and

16 WHEREAS, The consolidation of California's newspapers threatens access to trusted,  
17 locally rooted information about public safety, elections, schools, housing, transportation, arts,  
18 and culture; and

19 WHEREAS, California State Assembly Bill No. 611 (AB 611), introduced by  
20 Assemblymember Alex Lee and sponsored by California Common Cause, would require  
21 legacy local news outlets to provide 120 days' notice before finalizing a sale to a non-  
22 independent buyer such as a hedge fund or corporate chain; and

23 WHEREAS, San Francisco residents and organizations - including small publishers,  
24 nonprofit journalism projects, and labor unions representing journalists - have a vested  
25 interest in policies that support the survival and independence of local newsrooms; and

1           WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors recognizes the critical role of independent  
2 journalism in maintaining transparency and public trust in government; now, therefore, be it

3           RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors supports AB 611 - The Keep News  
4 Independent Act; and, be it

5           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors will explore local efforts to  
6 promote independent and community-owned media and encourage collaboration between  
7 policymakers, funders, journalists, and the public to strengthen local journalism; and, be it

8           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the California State  
9 Legislature and Governor to enact AB 611 as a necessary step to protect community access  
10 to diverse and independent sources of local news; and, be it

11          FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Board shall send a copy of this  
12 Resolution to Governor Gavin Newsom, President pro-Tempore Mike McGuire, Speaker of  
13 the State Assembly Robert Rivas, Chair of the Assembly Labor and Employment Committee  
14 Liz Ortega, and Chair of the Assembly Committee on Judiciary Ash Kalra.