

1 [Supporting the March to Sacramento to Protect Public Higher Education in California – March
2 22, 2010]

3
4 **Resolution supporting the March 22, 2010, “*March in March IV*” Sacramento to protect
5 and promote public higher education in California and to urge State government
6 officials to work together on FY2010-2011 budget that does not include cuts to public
7 education and student fee increases.**

8 WHEREAS, California’s system of public higher education is the largest in the world,
9 educating nearly 4 million students annually; and

10 WHEREAS, In Fiscal Year 2009-2010, the California State Legislature cut \$2 billion
11 from the California State University and University of California systems and \$6 billion from K-
12 12 and community college systems; and,

13 WHEREAS, The current economic downturn has caused a major increase in
14 unemployment, under-employment, and lower wages, and has been used as rationale for
15 drastic cuts to all areas of the California budget, including education; and,

16 WHEREAS, People turn to California’s colleges and universities during times of high
17 unemployment to retrain and supplement their skills and public education provides a stimulus
18 to the economy by preparing workers to enter or reenter the workforce; and,

19 WHEREAS, The budget deficit for the State for Fiscal Year 2010-2011 is an estimated \$21
20 billion and policy makers anticipate a new round of even more devastating cuts to the California
21 budget, including education; and,

22 WHEREAS, It is fundamentally important that the public, State policy makers, and
23 students understand how vital accessible and affordable public education is to constituencies
24 and communities across the State and how budget cuts are negatively impacting our colleges
25 and universities; and,

Supervisor Avalos

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

1 WHEREAS, Working together on behalf of all sectors of public education is the best
2 advocacy strategy for building critical consciousness and garnering the popular support to
3 keep the doors open to a public college education; and,

4 WHEREAS, The mission of *March in March IV* is to educate the public and State
5 policymakers on the importance of public higher education for all Californians and highlight
6 the devastating impact of the fee increases and budget cuts on California's colleges,
7 universities, their programs, and their people; and

8 WHEREAS, Past *Marches in March* have brought tens of thousands of students,
9 educators, and workers to the State Capitol to exercise their rights and to demonstrate the
10 importance of civic engagement in fighting for the right to a high quality, accessible and
11 affordable public college education; and,

12 WHEREAS, The vast majority California students are over 18 and eligible to vote; and
13 education on voter registration and civic engagement will be emphasized as a follow-up
14 activity to *March in March IV*.; now, therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of City and County of San Francisco
16 support the March in March IV on March 22; and, be it

17 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urge the Governor and the
18 State Legislature to work together to come up with a budget for 2010-2011 that does not
19 increase student fees and that uses a combination of new revenue generation, delayed
20 payments, and other creative mechanisms in lieu of cuts to education.

21
22
23
24
25

Supervisor Avalos

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS