

[Urge the US House of Representatives and US Senate to Adopt Hate Crime Law]

Urging the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate to Adopt a Hate Crime Law

WHEREAS, On October 12, 1998, Matthew Shepard, a 22 year old gay University of Wyoming student died after being savagely beaten and left lashed to a fence on October 7, 1998; and,

WHEREAS, One of the two accused suspects told his father that he committed the crime because he was embarrassed when Shepard flirted with him in front of his friends; and,

WHEREAS, Though statistics are not yet available for 1998, hate crimes against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people increased nationally by 2 percent in 1997; and,

WHEREAS, The National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs reported that violence against gay and lesbian youth in high schools and colleges increased a dramatic 34 percent last year; and,

WHEREAS, In another study released earlier this year by the University of Washington, one in 10 community college students admitted to committing hate crimes against gays and lesbians; and,

WHEREAS, Though anti-gay violence and deaths are not new, Shepard's murder is particularly significant because of its brutality and timing; and,

WHEREAS, Rhetoric describing homosexuality as a sickness that can be cured or altered has gained popularity recently among many religious and ultra-conservative groups; and,

WHEREAS, The Christian Right, led by the Center for Reclaiming America, have bought ads in major newspapers claiming that religious teaching will "cure" homosexuality; and,

1 WHEREAS, Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott told a television  
2 interviewer that homosexuality is a sin and that gay people should be helped  
3 "just like alcohol or sex addiction...or kleptomaniacs"; and,

4 WHEREAS, The so-called Riggs Ammendment, that would have  
5 restricted millions of dollars of federal housing funds earmarked for San  
6 Francisco unless the City did not use the funds to implement any section of  
7 Chapter 12B of the San Francisco Administrative Code, passed the House of  
8 Representatives by two votes, but was recently rejected in conference committee;  
9 and,

10 WHEREAS, Only 21 states, including California, have hate crime laws that  
11 include sexual orientation; and,

12 WHEREAS, Hate crime laws provide prison sentencing guidelines which  
13 lengthen a jail term for crimes against persons which were motivated by the  
14 perpetrators hatred of the victim's sexual orientation, be it heterosexual or  
15 homosexual; and,

16 WHEREAS, In Wyoming, three attempts to pass such hate crime laws  
17 have failed; and,

18 WHEREAS, Discrimination and prejudice against gays and lesbians  
19 should not be tolerated by any government; and,

20 WHEREAS, President Clinton called on Congress to draft national hate  
21 crime legislation; now, therefore, be it

22 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges members  
23 of the United States House of Representatives and United States Senate to draft  
24 and adopt hate crime legislation that includes sexual orientation.  
25



# City and County of San Francisco

Veterans Building  
401 Van Ness Avenue, Room 308  
San Francisco, CA 94102-4532

## Tails

### Resolution

---

**File Number:** 981708

**Date Passed:**

Resolution urging the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate to adopt a hate crime law.

---

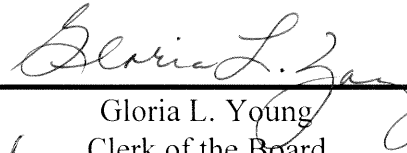
October 19, 1998 Board of Supervisors — ADOPTED

Ayes: 10 - Ammiano, Bierman, Brown, Katz, Kaufman, Leno, Medina, Teng,  
Yaki, Yee

Absent: 1 - Newsom

File No. 981708

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on October 19, 1998 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.



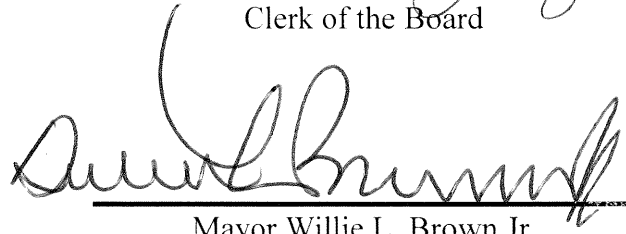
---

Gloria L. Young  
Clerk of the Board

OCT 30 1998

---

Date Approved



---

Mayor Willie L. Brown Jr.

File No. 981708 continued...