

1 [Resolution urging Congress to pass the Uniting American Families Act.]

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3 **Resolution urging Congress to pass the Uniting American Families Act and supporting**
4 **the removal of legal barriers to immigration by permanent same-sex partners.**
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6 WHEREAS, Every American is entitled to equal protection under the law; and

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8 WHEREAS, The U.S. immigration system is largely based upon the principle of family
9 unification; and

10 WHEREAS, Federal law does not currently recognize permanent same-sex partners
11 for immigration purposes; and

12 WHEREAS, This results in thousands of US citizens being forced into exile to be with
13 foreign-born partners, causing unnecessary hardship, separation from family members and
14 careers, and loss of valuable skills and resources for our country; and

15 WHEREAS, It is estimated some 36,000 gay and lesbian American citizens are in
16 same-sex binational relationships and are affected by lack of rights and protections of their
17 relationships at the federal level; and

18 WHEREAS, The Uniting American Families Act (UAFAs) was introduced in Congress
19 on February 12, 2009 by Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT) and Representative Jerrold Nadler (D-
20 NY) to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act and allow U.S. citizens and legal
21 permanent residents to sponsor same-sex partners for immigration; and

22 WHEREAS, The bills call for simply amending existing US immigration law by adding
23 three words – “or permanent partner” – wherever the word spouse appears; now, therefore,
24 be it

1 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges Congress to pass the
2 Uniting American Families Act and supports the removal of legal barriers to immigration by
3 permanent same-sex partners, and be it

4 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors hereby directs
5 the Clerk of the Board to send a copy of this resolution to the San Francisco Congressional
6 delegation, and to bill sponsors Representative Jerrold Nadler (D-NY) and Senator Patrick
7 Leahy (D-VT).

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