

1 [Urging the Full Repayment of California Soldiers and Veterans for Time Served]

2

3 **Resolution urging Congressional leadership to pass legislation that will fully absolve**
4 **California soldiers and veterans debt for time served.**

5

6 WHEREAS, Nearly 10,000 soldiers have been ordered by the Pentagon to repay
7 enlistment bonuses and other pay a decade after they served valiantly in the wars in Iraq and
8 Afghanistan; and

9 WHEREAS, The National Guard offered the bonuses and student aid to reenlist
10 soldiers at the height of the two wars in the early 2000's; and

11 WHEREAS, The Pentagon ordered the money paid be returned after it was later
12 discovered in a federal investigation that the California National Guard overpaid soldiers
13 under pressure to hit enlistment goals, which was unknown to the soldiers enlisting at the
14 time; and

15 WHEREAS, If soldiers refuse to pay back their earnings, they could face interest
16 charges, wage garnishments, and tax liens; and

17 WHEREAS, At least \$22,000,000 dollars of debt has been repaid by soldiers and
18 veterans already; and

19 WHEREAS, At least 54 members of Congress have sent a letter to Defense Secretary
20 Ashton Carter asking that he halt the ongoing collections; and

21 WHEREAS, California United States Senators Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer,
22 House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, and House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy have all
23 expressed outrage at the requested payment; and

24 WHEREAS, Soldiers and veterans can apply for a federal review of their debt, but that
25 the appeals process does in no way guarantee that their debts will be absolved; and

1 WHEREAS, Soldiers and veterans are reporting that they have had to mortgage their
2 homes, are experiencing additional and unneeded extra stress, and many feel betrayed by the
3 country and institutions they swore to serve; and

4 WHEREAS, San Francisco has a strong and proud history of working to support
5 soldiers and veterans when they and their families are in need; now, therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors extends its heartfelt
7 appreciation and gratitude to our soldiers and veterans who were willing sacrifice their life for
8 our country; and, be it

9 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges the
10 California National Guard and U.S. Department of Defense to immediately cease collection
11 actions; and, be it

12 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges
13 congressional leadership in Washington, D.C. to pass legislation that will fully absolve these
14 soldiers and veterans of this debt.