

1 [Urging Governor Gray Davis to sign into law SB 987, improving language access to  
2 government services.]

3 **Resolution urging Governor Gray Davis to sign into law Senate Bill 987, improving**  
4 **language access to government services.**

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6 WHEREAS, Language barriers can deprive California residents of critical services,  
7 including health care, labor and fair wage protection, and the ability to leave or avoid welfare;  
8 and

9 WHEREAS, The lack of language-appropriate services can lead to unjust and tragic  
10 consequences; and

11 WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco have been in the forefront of efforts  
12 to recognize and respond to the needs and requirements of an increasingly diverse  
13 community, including through the use of multiple language documentation as relevant; and

14 WHEREAS, The Dymally-Alatorre Bilingual Services Act, passed in 1973, requires  
15 state departments to provide bilingual services when 5% or more of their consumers speak a  
16 language other than English; and

17 WHEREAS, Lack of monitoring and enforcement mechanisms in the Dymally-Alatorre  
18 Bilingual Services Act have resulted in state departments failing to comply with the law; and

19 WHEREAS, Senate Bill 987, introduced by Senator Martha Escutia and amended in  
20 the Assembly, would address these issues by requiring state departments to assess their  
21 implementation of the Dymally-Alatorre Act, and to develop long-term plans prioritizing  
22 specific goals; and

23 WHEREAS, Senate Bill 987 would further create an enforcement mechanism that  
24 requires the State Personnel Board to monitor compliance; and

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1           WHEREAS, Senate Bill 987 presently requires only the action of the Governor to be  
2 signed into law; and

3           WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco has  
4 already registered its support for the passage of SB 987 through its Resolution (File No.  
5 021055) submitted June 10, 2002, approved by the full Board on June 17, 2002, and  
6 approved by the Mayor on June 28; now, therefore, be it

7           RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urge Governor Gray Davis to sign SB 987  
8 into law; and, be it

9           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors send a copy of this  
10 resolution to Governor Gray Davis, and to Senator John Burton, President Pro Tem of the  
11 Senate, and to Senator Martha Escutia, for incorporation into State documentation showing  
12 continuing support of Senate Bill 987.

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