

1 [Supporting California State Assembly Bill No. 256 (Kalra) - The California Racial Justice Act
for All]

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3 **Resolution supporting California State Assembly Bill No. 256 - The California Racial**
4 **Justice Act for All, introduced by State Assembly Members Ash Kalra, Sydney**
5 **Kamlager, Robert Rivas, and Miguel Santiago, that would the apply the protections of**
6 **the California Racial Justice Act to everyone, regardless of when discrimination in the**
7 **court occurred.**

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9 WHEREAS, The community is a diverse, multicultural and a multiethnic group of
10 people deserving of dignity; and

11 WHEREAS, Thirty-seven governing bodies across California have declared racism a
12 public health crisis, and have made other resolutions to be culturally responsive and address
13 racist effects; and

14 WHEREAS, Racism corrupts the fabric of our society and discrimination and implicit
15 bias perpetuate inequality in our justice system; and

16 WHEREAS, Implicit bias, although often unintentional and unconscious, injects racism
17 and unfairness into proceedings similar to intentional bias; and

18 WHEREAS, Racial disparities exist throughout the justice system and California has
19 disproportionately incarcerated indigenous, Latinx and Black people; and

20 WHEREAS, Black people in California are imprisoned at a rate nine times higher than
21 their share of the population; and

22 WHEREAS, Justice system involvement can expose families and communities to
23 instability in the home and families with incarcerated parents face an increased risk of their
24 children living in poverty or experiencing homelessness, independent of any other factors
25 present in a young person's life; and

1 WHEREAS, Justice Sonia Sotomayor, a United States Supreme Court Justice,
2 observed during the Schuette v. Coalition to Defend Affirmative Action, Integration and
3 Immigrant Rights and Fight for Equality By Any Means Necessary, “[t]he way to stop
4 discrimination on the basis of race is to speak openly and candidly on the subject of race, and
5 to apply the Constitution with eyes open to the unfortunate effects of centuries of racial
6 discrimination.”

7 WHEREAS, The California Racial Justice Act (Ch 317, 2020) empowers individuals to
8 challenge racism and discrimination when it happens in the courtroom; and

9 WHEREAS, The intent of the Act is not to punish this type of bias, but rather to remedy
10 the harm to the defendant’s case and to the integrity of the judicial system and it is the intent
11 of the Act to ensure that race plays no role at all in seeking or obtaining convictions or in
12 sentencing; and

13 WHEREAS, California State Assembly Bill No. 256 – the Racial Justice Act for All –
14 authored by Assemblymember McCarty and Senators Bradford and Gonzalez and introduced
15 by Assemblymember Ash Kalra would apply the protections of the California Racial Justice
16 Act to everyone, regardless of when discrimination in the court occurred; now, therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges the California State
18 Legislature to pass and Governor Gavin Newsom to sign into law California Assembly Bill No.
19 256; and, be it

20 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors directs the Clerk
21 of the Board to transmit a copy of this resolution to the California State Legislature and
22 Governor Gavin Newsom.

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