

1 [Supporting AB-944]
2

3 **Resolution urging the Governor of California and the California Senate and Assembly**
4 **to support the passage of Assembly Bill 944 (Ridley Thomas) which will require a**
5 **warning label be conspicuously posted wherever firearms are sold and that the**
6 **warning be included in firearms sales contracts and further that the warning be**
7 **included in the Handgun Safety Certificate Study Guide published by the California**
8 **Department of Justice.**

9 WHEREAS, Assembly Bill 944 (Ridley-Thomas) will require a warning label be
10 conspicuously posted wherever firearms are sold and the warning be included in firearms
11 sales contracts and that the warning be included in the Handgun Safety Certificate Study
12 Guide published by the California Department of Justice; and

13 WHEREAS, The warning notice shall state, "Warning: The State of California has
14 determined that guns in the home are much more likely to be used to kill or injure a household
15 member than to protect against an attacker. It is safest not to keep a gun in the home. If a
16 gun is kept in the home, it should be kept unloaded and securely locked, with ammunition
17 locked up separately." and

18 WHEREAS, AB944 has been endorsed by the California Chapter of the American
19 College of Emergency Physicians, the California District of the American Academy of
20 Pediatrics, the Brady Campaign, Million Mom March, Coalition to Stop Gun Violence,
21 Physicians for Social Responsibility, the Legal Community Against Violence, the Consumer
22 Federation of California, the Trauma Foundation, the Friends Committee on Legislation,
23 YouthALIVE, former Los Angeles Mayor James Hahn, SF General trauma surgeon Dr.
24 Margaret Knudson; and

1 WHEREAS, Nationally, over 30,000 U.S. civilians are killed by handguns and the
2 number of non-fatal gunshot wounds is three time the annual handgun mortality rate; and

3 WHEREAS, Over 3,000 Californians are killed by firearms compared to 3,000 deaths
4 due to polio in the entire United States at the height of the polio epidemic in 1952; and

5 WHEREAS, Over 3,000 Californians are killed by firearms compared to 3,000 deaths
6 due to polio in the entire United States at the height of the polio epidemic in 1952; and

7 WHEREAS, The annual mortality rate of Californians killed by firearms is more than
8 double the rate of deaths due to AIDS; and

9 WHEREAS, The annual mortality rate of Californians killed by firearms is also
10 surpasses the total number of deaths due to motor vehicle accidents in seven states,
11 including California; and

12 WHEREAS, Firearm-related deaths are the fourth leading cause of years of
13 preventable life lost below the age of 65 in the United States; and

14 WHEREAS, The annual cost of medical treatment of gunshot injuries in the U.S. is
15 between \$2.3 and \$4 billion dollars with California sharing those costs to sum of \$200-400
16 million; and

17 WHEREAS, Since many gunshot victims are uninsured, the U.S. taxpayers bear about
18 half of the direct medical costs of treating gunshot victims, estimated to \$112 billion annually;
19 and

1 WHEREAS, The rate of firearms-related deaths for U.S. children younger than 15-
2 years of age is twelve times higher than the rate in 25 leading industrialized nations
3 combined; and

4 WHEREAS, The homicide rate for U.S. males ages 15-24 is ten times higher than their
5 counterparts developed nations with the majority of deaths attributed to handgun violence;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, The much higher rate of firearms violence in the U.S. as compared with all
8 other industrialized nations corresponds with a much higher rate of firearms ownership in the
9 U.S. with community rates of firearm-related fatalities paralleling community rates of firearm
10 ownership; and

11 WHEREAS, It is estimated that 200-300 million privately owned firearms in the U.S. in
12 which between 38-48% of those firearms are kept inside the home; be it, therefore

13
14 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
15 urges the Governor California and the California Senate and Assembly to support the
16 passage of AB944 (Riddley-Thomas) which will require a warning label be conspicuously
17 posted wherever firearms are sold and that the warning be included in firearms sales
18 contracts and further that the warning be included in the Handgun Safety Certificate Study
19 Guide published by the California Department of Justice.