

1 [Resolution endorsing the elimination of the “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy and adoption of a
2 policy of nondiscrimination on the basis of sexual orientation within the United States Armed
3 Forces.]

4 **Resolution endorsing Senate Joint Resolution 11, urging the President and the United**
5 **States Congress to adopt the Military Readiness Enhancement Act of 2005 (H.R. 1059),**
6 **which eliminates the “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy and adopts a policy of**
7 **nondiscrimination on the basis of sexual orientation within the United States Armed**
8 **Forces.**

9 WHEREAS, In the United States, service in the Armed Forces by lesbian, gay, and
10 bisexual Americans has been at question for many years, leading to the creation of the
11 National Defense Authorization Act of 1994 (Public Law 103-160), more commonly known as
12 the “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell, Don’t Pursue, Don’t Harass” or simply the “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell”
13 policy; and

14 WHEREAS, The Servicemembers Legal Defense Network has found that this policy of
15 “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” led to the discharge of nearly 10,000 servicemembers in its first ten
16 years, including nearly 800 with “critical skills,” of which 322 were linguists; and,

17 WHEREAS, The United States Armed Forces is currently unable to meet its own
18 recruiting goals, thus forcing National Guard and Reserve members to serve extended tours
19 of duty, while at the same time highly qualified and patriotic gay, lesbian, and bisexual
20 Americans are prevented from serving solely because of their sexual orientation; and,

21 WHEREAS, Low troop levels put national security at risk through lack of personnel,
22 inadequate training, increased troop fatigue and stress, and decreased morale; and,

23 WHEREAS, The “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy also affects national security and military
24 readiness in more insidious manners, including harassment, violence, secrecy, and lack of
25 confidential medical care, all of which undermine unit cohesion; and,

1 WHEREAS, The Department of Defense has issued four reports since 1957 examining
2 the presence of lesbian, gay, and bisexual servicemembers in the Armed Forces, with
3 findings indicating that these servicemembers do not pose security risks nor impair military
4 readiness, but rather perform their duties as well as heterosexual servicemembers; and,

5 WHEREAS, Lesbian, gay, and bisexual servicemembers have served and are serving
6 bravely and honorably in all branches of the United States Armed Forces and in all locations,
7 national and international, numbering one million veterans and 65,000 active duty personnel,
8 according to the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network; and

9 WHEREAS, Top United States national security agencies do not discriminate against
10 their personnel based on sexual orientation, rather, the Department of Homeland Security,
11 the Central Intelligence Agency, the Defense Intelligence Agency, the Federal Bureau of
12 Investigation, and the National Security Agency all allow personnel to serve openly, leaving
13 the Armed Forces as the only agency in the federal government that still uses sexual
14 orientation to discriminate in employment decisions; and

15 WHEREAS, Many of America’s allies, including Israel, Australia, Canada, and the
16 United Kingdom, allow lesbian, gay, and bisexual servicemembers to serve openly in their
17 militaries, and the United Kingdom now actively recruits these servicemembers; and,

18 WHEREAS, The Servicemembers Legal Defense Network finds that American
19 taxpayers spend nearly \$26 million a year training replacements for servicemembers
20 discharged under the “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy, with unknown costs associated with the
21 actual discharge of these servicemembers and non-monetary costs to troop cohesion and
22 morale associated with the loss of unit members; and,

23 WHEREAS, The Urban Institute, using data from Census 2000, has counted over
24 15,000 gay and lesbian veterans living in San Francisco alone; and,

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1 WHEREAS, National security and military readiness will be best served by allowing
2 every willing and able American to serve in the United States Armed Forces, without regard to
3 sexual orientation; now, therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors hereby supports Senate Joint Resolution
5 11, by Senator Kehoe, in support of H.R. 1059, the Military Readiness Act of 2005, by
6 Representative Marty Meehan (D-MA), that will replace the current “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell”
7 policy with a policy of nondiscrimination based on sexual orientation; and, be it

8 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors shall transmit
9 copies of this resolution to California State Senators Kehoe and Migden, and Assemblyman
10 Mark Leno, as well as our Congressional Representatives Nancy Pelosi and Tom Lantos and
11 United States Senators Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer.

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