

1 [Resolution endorsing Senate Bill 861, introduced by Senator Jackie Speier, and urging the
2 California State Legislature and the Governor of California to support this bill]

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4 **Resolution endorsing Senate Bill 861, introduced by Senator Jackie Speier, and urging**
5 **the California State Legislature and the Governor of California to support this bill.**

6 WHEREAS, California Food and Agriculture Code Section 31683 currently prohibits
7 cities and counties in California from creating legislation that regulates dogs in a manner that
8 is specific as to breed; and,

9 WHEREAS, On June 3rd, 2005, twelve year old Nicholas Faibish was tragically mauled
10 to a death by his family's in tact (un-neutered) male pit bull; and

11 WHEREAS, Mayor Gavin Newsom selected an administration "working group" to
12 review and evaluate possible measures that the city could take to prevent such attacks from
13 occurring in the future; and

14 WHEREAS, The working group focused on gathering statistics on vicious and
15 dangerous dog attacks and the most effective policies that other municipalities have utilized
16 to control aggressive canine behavior and protect citizens; and

17 WHEREAS, California leads the nation in fatal dog attacks: 47 in the period 1965-
18 2001; and

19 WHEREAS, from 1978-1998, pit bulls caused 66 deaths-- number one of all breeds for
20 dog-injury related fatalities; and

21 WHEREAS, In San Francisco, 50 – 60% of all vicious and dangerous dog hearings are
22 for pit bulls and pit bull mixes; and

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1 WHEREAS, An amendment to the state law would allow municipalities in California to
2 create legislation that would deal with the specific characteristics of the dog population in their
3 jurisdiction creating more effective measures; and

4 WHEREAS, Most bite incidents involve un-neutered males over 50 lbs in weight; and

5 WHEREAS, It has been shown that spay and neuter requirements are an effective
6 method of reducing aggressive behavior when targeted towards vicious and aggressive
7 breeds that have the capabilities to inflict severe and fatal injuries, specifically pit bulls and pit
8 bull mixes; and

9 WHEREAS, the practice of inbreeding is a process often used to enhance aggressive
10 characteristics in certain breeds and therefore the prevalence of “back-yard” breeding in San
11 Francisco increases the number of dangerous dogs; and

12 WHEREAS, SB 861 would allow the City and County of San Francisco to adopt breed
13 specific legislation, provided no program institutes a ban specific as to breed, thus decreasing
14 the possibility of an incident occurring similar to the Nicholas Faibish tragedy; now, therefore,
15 be it

16 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors endorses SB 861 (Senator
17 Speier) and urges members of the California Senate and Assembly to support this bill; and,
18 be it

19 FURTHER RESOLVED, That upon adoption, the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors is
20 directed to transmit copies of this resolution to San Francisco representatives in the Senate
21 and State Assembly.

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