

1 [Supporting California State Senate Bill No. 1170 (Menjivar) - Political Reform Act of 1974]

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3 **Resolution supporting California State Senate Bill No. 1170, introduced by Senator**  
4 **Caroline Menjivar, to allow non-incumbent candidates running for office to use**  
5 **campaign funds to pay for candidates' mental health care costs.**

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7 WHEREAS, The Political Reform Act of 1974 was enacted by the California Legislature  
8 to establish stringent regulations on the use of campaign funds, expressly prohibiting the  
9 utilization of such funds for health-related expenses; and

10 WHEREAS, The provisions of the Political Reform Act of 1974 have inadvertently  
11 erected barriers that disproportionately affect women and marginalized communities,  
12 hindering their participation in the political process, as evidenced by the comprehensive study  
13 conducted by California Women's List in August 2023, which highlighted the significant mental  
14 health challenges faced by women and other marginalized communities in political  
15 candidacies; and

16 WHEREAS, Historical data reveals a stark underrepresentation of women in the  
17 California State Legislature, with only 192 women state legislators out of a total of 4,496  
18 historically, representing less than 5% of the legislative body, a discrepancy that underscores  
19 the necessity for reform to encourage greater diversity and inclusion in political  
20 representation; and

21 WHEREAS, The current political climate, characterized by heightened partisanship,  
22 negative campaigning, and an overall hostile environment, imposes significant personal and  
23 financial burdens on candidates, exacerbating the mental health challenges faced by  
24 individuals seeking public office; and

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1           WHEREAS, In response to these findings and to address the pressing need for mental  
2 health support for political candidates, Senator Caroline Menjivar introduced Senate Bill No.  
3 1170, which would allow non-incumbent candidates to allocate campaign funds for mental  
4 health care, thereby acknowledging and mitigating the mental health impact of campaign-  
5 related stress; and

6           WHEREAS, The enactment of Senate Bill No. 1170 represents a critical step towards  
7 dismantling the barriers to political participation, particularly those challenges related to  
8 mental health stigma and financial constraints faced by uninsured candidates or those denied  
9 coverage for mental health services; and

10           WHEREAS, Senate Bill No. 1170 aligns with the foundational objectives of the Political  
11 Reform Act of 1974, enhancing the integrity of the political process by providing candidates  
12 the resources needed to maintain their mental well-being and effectively engage in  
13 transparent and ethical campaigning; now, therefore, be it

14           RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco  
15 hereby endorses Senate Bill No. 1170, recognizing its significance in promoting mental health  
16 awareness, reducing stigma, and facilitating broader participation in the democratic process;  
17 and, be it

18           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Board is hereby directed to transmit  
19 copies of this Resolution to Governor Gavin Newsom, President pro Tempore Mike McGuire,  
20 Speaker of the State Assembly Robert Rivas, State Senator Scott Wiener, Assemblymember  
21 Matt Haney, and Assemblymember Phil Ting, as a demonstration of the Board's support for  
22 Senate Bill No. 1170 and its commitment to fostering an inclusive and equitable political  
23 landscape in California.

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