

1 [Supporting California State Assembly Bill No. 1242 (Nguyen) - Language Access]

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3 **Resolution supporting California State Assembly Bill No. 1242, Language Access,**
4 **authored by Assembly Member Stephanie Nguyen, to expand California's language**
5 **access laws.**

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7 WHEREAS, California's Dymally-Alatorre Bilingual Services Act requires state
8 agencies to provide meaningful language access wherever a language group constitutes a
9 "substantial number" (5% or more) of the population served; and

10 WHEREAS, Assembly Bill No. 1242 (AB 1242), authored by Assembly Member
11 Stephanie Nguyen, who represents the 10th Assembly District covering Elk Grove, Florin,
12 Vineyard, and parts of Sacramento, seeks to modernize and expand the State's approach to
13 language access; and

14 WHEREAS, The bill replaces outdated biennial surveys with comprehensive language
15 needs assessments that incorporate United States Census data and community engagement
16 to better identify and address gaps in service; and

17 WHEREAS, AB 1242 establishes a Language Access Director within the California
18 Health & Human Services Agency to coordinate statewide implementation, provide guidance,
19 and engage communities with limited English proficiency (LEP) and those who are deaf or
20 hard of hearing; and

21 WHEREAS, The bill requires each state department under the Agency to develop and
22 maintain a Language Access Plan, with dedicated state funding to support training,
23 implementation, and periodic update; and

24 WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco's Language Access Ordinance, last
25 amended in 2024, reflects many of the same principles such as providing services in Chinese,

1 Spanish, Filipino, Vietnamese, and other qualifying languages; conducting compliance
2 reporting; translating digital and physical materials; maintaining language access complaint
3 mechanisms; and ensuring multilingual crisis response; and

4 WHEREAS, San Francisco reaffirms that “a safe, inclusive, and equitable environment”
5 requires that “every person, regardless of immigration status or language spoken, can readily
6 access information about City services and programs”; and

7 WHEREAS, Expanding state standards through AB 1242 will further strengthen and
8 align with the City’s longstanding leadership in language justice and culturally competent
9 service delivery to diverse communities; now, therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors hereby supports AB 1242 to
11 reinforce state-level language access as it aligns with San Francisco’s own Language Access
12 Ordinance by ensuring preemptive, data-driven, and well-funded language accessibility
13 across government; and, be it

14 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the California
15 Legislature, particularly the State Senate, to pass AB 1242, and the Governor to sign it, to
16 ensure effective service delivery to California’s multilingual and Deaf/Hard-of-Hearing
17 residents; and, be it

18 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors hereby directs the Clerk of the
19 Board to transmit a copy of this Resolution to the California Senate President pro Tempore
20 Mike McGuire, California Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas, Governor Gavin Newsom, our San
21 Francisco State representatives, State Senator Scott Wiener, Assembly Member Matt Haney,
22 and Assembly Member Catherine Stefani, as well as the Bill’s primary sponsor, Assembly
23 Member Stephanie Nguyen.