

1 [Supporting AB-2161, AB-2193, AB-2481, AB-2488, and AB-2489]

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3 **Resolution in support of the passage of AB 2161(Hancock), AB 2193 (Bass), AB 2481**
4 **(Evans), AB 2488 (Leno) and AB 2489 (Leno) to improve and enhance the State's Child**
5 **Welfare Services to promote successful outcomes for California's, and San**
6 **Francisco's, foster youth.**

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8 WHEREAS, there are 84,389 children and youth in the California foster care system
9 with 4,355 youth aging out every year : and,

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11 WHEREAS, there are 2,326 youth in foster care in San Francisco, of which 850 youth
12 are emancipating between 2005 and 2009: and,

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14 WHEREAS, the California Child Welfare System is governed by antiquated policies
15 and regulations that present barriers to connecting foster children with families are who are
16 prepared and able to provide supportive and nurturing homes; that provides inadequate
17 funding to reduce child welfare workers caseloads which are roughly double the
18 recommended minimum standards; that provides no incentives for recruitment, retention or
19 support for foster or adoptive homes; and, that creates obstacles to foster youth connecting
20 with their siblings: and,

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22 WHEREAS, 75% of children and youth in foster care work below grade level, more
23 than 35% of foster youth are in special education, only 46% of former foster youth complete
24 high school and only 10% enroll in college: and,

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1 WHEREAS, AB 2161 will streamline the process for licensing and approving relatives,
2 foster families and adoptive parents who care for children who are abused and neglected by
3 merging multiple, duplicative and confusing State laws and regulations into a single, unified
4 process that will reduce the length of time children spend in the system who are in need of
5 permanent adoptive homes and increase placement stability for children: and,

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7 WHEREAS, AB 2193 will implement the recommendations of the SB 2030 Task Force
8 to reduce extraordinarily high workloads for California's child welfare workers through
9 changing the State budgeting standard and requiring counties to develop local plans
10 consistent with existing system improvement plans, as required by AB 636, to provide child
11 welfare workers with additional time and/or supports to address workload issues and reach
12 desired outcomes for children and families: and,

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14 WHEREAS, AB 2481 will increase by 5% the basic rates paid to foster parents to
15 address the fact that California has not increased the reimbursement rates for foster family
16 home placements in over five years so that the State now pays less to care for a foster child
17 (\$505/month) than the average kennel charges for a dog (\$620/month), and AB 2481 will also
18 create a State-administered fund to support locally-driven efforts to recruit and support foster
19 and adoptive families so that more children can remain in their community in stable, long-term
20 homes: and,

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22 WHEREAS, AB 2488 will amend Family Code section 9205 to remove overly restrictive
23 barriers in the law that prohibit the State Department of Social Services or an adoption agency
24 from releasing sibling contact information post-adoption unless each sibling has reached the
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1 age of 21 and each has filed a confidentiality waiver, making it easier for siblings to find each
2 other after one or more of them have been adopted through the foster care system: and,

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4 WHEREAS, AB 2489 will improve opportunities for foster youth to pursue their
5 educational goals by expanding the State Foster Youth Services Program in K-12 to serve all
6 foster youth and former foster youth in Family Maintenance; waiving tuition/fees for foster
7 youth attending the UC and CSU systems; providing for housing preferences and year round
8 housing for foster youth attending UC or CSU schools; and providing State incentives to
9 colleges and universities in California to expand the Guardian Scholars Program which offers
10 financial and emotional support for foster youth attending college; now, therefore, be it

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12 RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco urges the California State
13 Senate and Assembly to support passage of the aforementioned legislation to improve
14 outcomes for children, youth and families involved with the foster care system in California.

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