

1 [Repeal Defense of Marriage Act.]

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3 **Resolution urging our California Congressional Delegation To Lead The Fight To**
4 **Repeal The Federal “Defense of Marriage Act”.**

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6 WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco respects and values its lesbian,
7 gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) communities and has demonstrated its strong
8 support for loving relationships of same sex couples by leading the way on the campaign for
9 marriage equality; and

10 WHEREAS, The federal law referred to as the Defense of Marriage Act of 1996
11 (DOMA) is hostile to the beliefs and interests of the City and County of San Francisco in
12 regards to full state-to-state as well as federal recognition of same sex marriage; and,

13 WHEREAS, United States President Barack Obama has pledged publicly, and
14 repeatedly to repeal DOMA and to enact legislation that would ensure that over 1,100 federal
15 legal rights and benefits currently provided on the basis of marital status are extended to
16 same sex couples in civil unions and other legally recognized unions; and,

17 WHEREAS, These rights and benefits include the right to assist a loved one in times of
18 emergency, the right to equal health insurance and other employment benefits, and property
19 rights; and,

20 WHEREAS, We must act deliberately to do away with continued discrimination and
21 homophobia that specifically denies the LGBTQ members of our society the fundamental right
22 to marry; and,

23 WHEREAS, Efforts continue around the country to deny the fundamental right to marry
24 from the LGBTQ population, including California Proposition 8 of 2008 that sought to eliminate
25 the right of same sex couples to marry; and,

1 WHEREAS, Repealing DOMA is a critical step in offering equal protection under the
2 law for a fundamental right of marriage and restoring equal rights for all; now, therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
4 urges the California Congressional delegation to lead the fight to repeal DOMA; and be it

5 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors calls specifically on House
6 Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Senators Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer, and the rest of the
7 California Congressional delegation to work with President Obama and Congress to repeal
8 DOMA and to underscore that the U.S. Constitution indeed offers equal protection to the
9 LGBTQ communities through the fundamental right to marry.

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