

1 [Supporting United State House of Representatives Bill 1585 - Violence Against Women
2 Reauthorization Act of 2019]

3 **Resolution supporting United State House of Representatives Bill 1585, the Violence**
4 **Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2019, a bipartisan bill to prevent domestic**
5 **violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking and hold offenders accountable**
6 **that has passed out of the United States House of Representatives and awaits**
7 **consideration by the United States Senate.**

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9 WHEREAS, Since 1994, the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) has been one
10 of the cornerstones of America's response to domestic violence, sexual assault, dating
11 violence, and stalking; and, the San Francisco Family Violence Prevention Fund, under
12 the direction of its founder Esta Soler, was a driving force behind the 1994 legislation
13 that codified the first comprehensive federal response to violence against women that
14 reshaped the criminal justice system, required training for judges and law enforcement
15 personnel, and funded a national network of shelters and services; and,

16 WHEREAS, With strong bipartisan support, VAWA has been reauthorized three
17 times: in 2000, 2005, and 2013 and, yet, the 115th Congress allowed the Act to expire
18 in December 2018; and,

19 WHEREAS, United State House of Representatives Bill 1585 (H.R.1585), a new
20 bill for 2019 was introduced in the current 116th Congress with modest but meaningful
21 improvements to victim/survivor protections including the expansion of the definition of
22 domestic violence to include "economic abuse;" and, H.R. 1585 was passed in the U.S.
23 House of Representatives on April 4, 2019; and,

24 WHEREAS, Gender-based violence continues to be a major issue in San
25 Francisco; according to the most recent Family Violence in San Francisco Report (2017

1 data) released by the San Francisco Department on the Status of Women, there were
2 over 3,300 domestic violence cases reported to the San Francisco Police Department,
3 more than 17,000 shelter bed nights provided to victim/survivors, and over 22,000
4 domestic violence crisis calls to 911 and community-based service providers, any one
5 of which could have resulted in a fatality; and,

6 WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco has established itself as a
7 leader in ending gender-based violence by, for example, training over 400 first
8 responders on a victim-centered response and investing heavily in community-based
9 prevention and intervention services that led to the total elimination of domestic violence
10 homicides for nearly four years, between 2010-2014; however, since then, more than a
11 dozen San Franciscans have lost their lives to domestic violence, indicating a continued
12 need to expand services and outreach; and,

13 WHEREAS, To improve its response to domestic violence, sexual assault, dating
14 violence, and stalking, the City & County of San Francisco, local shelters, and service
15 providers have receive millions of dollars in grant funding from the U.S. Department of
16 Justice Office of Violence Against Women that administers the grants in compliance
17 with VAWA, including the Domestic Violence High-Risk Pilot Project currently operating
18 to immediately connect victim/survivors to life-saving services; and,

19 WHEREAS, On May 22, 2019, the San Francisco Commission on the Status of
20 Women voted to urge this body and the Mayor to support reauthorization of this critical
21 legislation; now, therefore be it

22 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors strongly supports the
23 Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2019 and urges the U.S. Senate to
24 pass the legislation swiftly; and, be it

1 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges United States
2 Senators Dianne Feinstein and Kamala Harris to continue to exercise their leadership in
3 ending violence against women by working with their colleagues in the Senate to pass
4 the legislation as soon as possible; and, be it

5 FURTHER RESOLVED, That in addition to sending a copy of this Resolution to
6 the offices of Senator Dianne Feinstein and Senator Kamala Harris, the Board of
7 Supervisors directs the Clerk of the Board to send a copy to the offices of San
8 Francisco representatives Speaker of the United States House of Representatives
9 Nancy Pelosi and Congresswoman Jackie Speier.

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