

1 [Urging the United States Senate to Amend Senate Bill 744 and Pass Comprehensive
2 Immigration Reform]

3 **Resolution urging the United States Senate to amend Senate Bill 744 and pass**
4 **Comprehensive Immigration Reform legislation to focus on family reunification, create**
5 **a real pathway to citizenship, and be inclusive of our country’s diversity.**
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7 WHEREAS, On April 15, 2013, The U.S. Senate Bi-Partisan Committee on Immigration
8 Reform proposed legislation to fix our country’s broken immigration system; and

9 WHEREAS, While to its credit, the proposed bill addresses backlogs for family and
10 employer-sponsored visas, places DREAM Act students and agricultural workers on a faster
11 legalization track, and allows law enforcement officials to assist domestic violence victims and
12 immigrants who are witnesses to crimes, the proposal also presents significant barriers for our
13 most vulnerable immigrants; and

14 WHEREAS, On April 22, 2013, the San Francisco Immigrant Rights Commission
15 issued a statement voicing its concern about the shift from family reunification, an
16 unprecedented expansion of border enforcement, threats to workers due to the continuation of
17 the E-Verify program, and significant challenges that will result from proposed fee increases
18 and new education and language requirements; and

19 WHEREAS, Since the current legislation eliminates sibling-based visas, makes it
20 harder for some families to petition for their adult married children, and continues the
21 discrimination in immigration law against LGBT Americans and their foreign-born partners, our
22 immigration system’s historic commitment to family reunification has been severely
23 compromised; and
24

1 WHEREAS, With new employment requirements, the proposed bill supports visas for
2 high-skilled workers at the expense of low-wage earners who provide essential services, pay
3 taxes, and contribute to the economy, and unnecessarily pits two classes of immigrant
4 workers who should both be embraced by our country; and

5 WHEREAS, New proposed requirements for English-Language
6 proficiency presents significant barriers and economic burdens to many aspiring newcomers,
7 and waivers, as they currently exist, should continue for those for whom these requirements
8 are unnecessarily onerous; and

9 WHEREAS, San Francisco is a city founded by immigrants, where over a third of the
10 current population is immigrant, where nearly half speak one of over 112 different languages
11 other than English, and where our diversity and immigrant communities are viewed as a
12 global advantage; now, therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors joins the Immigrant Rights Commission in
14 urging the Senate Judiciary Committee to adopt amendments to the Comprehensive
15 Immigration Reform package that supports family reunification, create real pathways to
16 citizenship, and are inclusive of our country's diversity, and urges San Francisco's
17 Congressional delegation to advocate for both these amendments and the legislation's
18 ultimate passage.