[Resolution endorsing the elimination of the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy and adoption of a policy of nondiscrimination on the basis of sexual orientation within the United States Armed Forces.]

Resolution endorsing Senate Joint Resolution 11, urging the President and the United States Congress to adopt the Military Readiness Enhancement Act of 2005 (H.R. 1059), which eliminates the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy and adopts a policy of nondiscrimination on the basis of sexual orientation within the United States Armed Forces.

WHEREAS, In the United States, service in the Armed Forces by lesbian, gay, and bisexual Americans has been at question for many years, leading to the creation of the National Defense Authorization Act of 1994 (Public Law 103-160), more commonly known as the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell, Don't Pursue, Don't Harass" or simply the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy; and

WHEREAS, The Servicemembers Legal Defense Network has found that this policy of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" led to the discharge of nearly 10,000 servicemembers in its first ten years, including nearly 800 with "critical skills," of which 322 were linguists; and,

WHEREAS, The United States Armed Forces is currently unable to meet its own recruiting goals, thus forcing National Guard and Reserve members to serve extended tours of duty, while at the same time highly qualified and patriotic gay, lesbian, and bisexual Americans are prevented from serving solely because of their sexual orientation; and,

WHEREAS, Low troop levels put national security at risk through lack of personnel, inadequate training, increased troop fatigue and stress, and decreased morale; and,

WHEREAS, The "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy also affects national security and military readiness in more insidious manners, including harassment, violence, secrecy, and lack of confidential medical care, all of which undermine unit cohesion; and,

WHEREAS, The Department of Defense has issued four reports since 1957 examining the presence of lesbian, gay, and bisexual servicemembers in the Armed Forces, with findings indicating that these servicemembers do not pose security risks nor impair military readiness, but rather perform their duties as well as heterosexual servicemembers; and.

WHEREAS, Lesbian, gay, and bisexual servicemembers have served and are serving bravely and honorably in all branches of the United States Armed Forces and in all locations, national and international, numbering one million veterans and 65,000 active duty personnel, according to the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network; and

WHEREAS, Top United States national security agencies do not discriminate against their personnel based on sexual orientation, rather, the Department of Homeland Security, the Central Intelligence Agency, the Defense Intelligence Agency, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the National Security Agency all allow personnel to serve openly, leaving the Armed Forces as the only agency in the federal government that still uses sexual orientation to discriminate in employment decisions; and

WHEREAS, Many of America's allies, including Israel, Australia, Canada, and the United Kingdom, allow lesbian, gay, and bisexual servicemembers to serve openly in their militaries, and the United Kingdom now actively recruits these servicemembers; and,

WHEREAS, The Servicemembers Legal Defense Network finds that American taxpayers spend nearly \$26 million a year training replacements for servicemembers discharged under the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy, with unknown costs associated with the actual discharge of these servicemembers and non-monetary costs to troop cohesion and morale associated with the loss of unit members; and,

WHEREAS, The Urban Institute, using data from Census 2000, has counted over 15,000 gay and lesbian veterans living in San Francisco alone; and,

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WHEREAS, National security and military readiness will be best served by allowing every willing and able American to serve in the United States Armed Forces, without regard to sexual orientation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors hereby supports Senate Joint Resolution 11, by Senator Kehoe, in support of H.R. 1059, the Military Readiness Act of 2005, by Representative Marty Meehan (D-MA), that will replace the current "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy with a policy of nondiscrimination based on sexual orientation; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors shall transmit copies of this resolution to California State Senators Kehoe and Migden, and Assemblyman Mark Leno, as well as our Congressional Representatives Nancy Pelosi and Tom Lantos and United States Senators Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer.



City and County of San Francisco Tails

City Hall 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

Resolution

File Number:

050943

Date Passed:

Resolution endorsing Senate Joint Resolution 11, urging the President and the United States Congress to adopt the Military Readiness Enhancement Act of 2005 (H.R. 1059), which eliminates the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy and adopts a policy of nondiscrimination on the basis of sexual orientation within the United States Armed Forces.

June 7, 2005 Board of Supervisors — ADOPTED

Ayes: 10 - Alioto-Pier, Ammiano, Daly, Dufty, Elsbernd, Ma, Maxwell,

Mirkarimi, Peskin, Sandoval Absent: 1 - McGoldrick File No. 050943

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on June 7, 2005 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Gloria L. Young Clerk of the Board

Mayor Gavin Newsom

JUN 16 2005

Date Approved