

1 [Supporting California State Senate Bill 128 (Wolk, Moning) - End-of-Life Option Act]

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3 **Resolution supporting California State Senate Bill 128, the End-of Life Option Act,**
4 **authored by Senators Lois Wolk and Bill Monning, which would expand end-of-life**
5 **options in California.**

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7 WHEREAS, In 2000, California enacted the Uniform Healthcare Decisions Act, also
8 known as the Health Care Decisions Law, which consolidated the state’s previous advance
9 directives and affirmed patients’ right to self-determined care; and

10 WHEREAS, In January of 2015, Senators Lois Wolk and Bill Monning, introduced
11 Senate Bill 128 (SB 128), the End-of-Life Option Act, which would expand the end of life
12 options available to Californians in the final stages of life due to terminal illness; and

13 WHEREAS, Advances in science and technology have created medical interventions
14 that often prolong the dying process and increase suffering; and

15 WHEREAS, "Aid in dying" describes a medical practice defined by established
16 standards of care, which enables a mentally competent, terminally ill adult to obtain a
17 prescription for medication, which the patient may choose to self-administer, in the face of
18 unbearable suffering, and to advance the time of an approaching death; and

19 WHEREAS, Many find comfort and peace of mind in having access to options at the
20 end of life, including aid in dying, even if they do not exercise those options; and

21 WHEREAS, In 1997, Oregon was the first state to enact a Death with Dignity Act,
22 allowing terminally-ill residents to end their lives through the voluntary, self-administration of
23 lethal medication prescribed by physicians, and requiring the state to collect information and
24 publish annual reports; and

25 WHEREAS, Oregon has nearly two decades of data that demonstrates the utility and

1 safety of the practice of upholding a patient’s right to self-determination; and

2 WHEREAS, Four additional states - Washington, Vermont, New Mexico, and Montana
3 - have affirmed aid in dying practices through legislative and/or legal action; and

4 WHEREAS, Twenty-five legislatures, including the District of Columbia will have
5 considered aid in dying measures in the 2015 legislative session; and

6 WHEREAS, Well-respected health and medical organizations support the passage of
7 aid in dying laws, including the American Medical Women’s Association and the American
8 Public Health Association; and

9 WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco respects the diversity of
10 perspectives on end of life decisions; and

11 WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco recognizes that the choices a
12 person makes at the end of life are inalienably grounded in that individuals’ life experiences;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco recognizes that the practice of aid
15 in dying is a desirable medical choice for many terminally ill, mentally competent adults; now,
16 therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
18 hereby supports California Senate Bill 128; and, be it

19 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San
20 Francisco directs the Clerk of the Board to communicate this resolution to San Francisco’s
21 state legislators, urging them to support California Senate Bill 128.

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