

1 [Supporting California State Assembly Bill 2243 (Friedman) - Sex Worker Immunity]

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3 **Resolution declaring support for California State Assembly Bill 2243, authored by State**
4 **Assembly Member Laura Friedman, which provide protections for sex workers who**
5 **want to come forward to report a crime of violence perpetrated against them during an**
6 **act of prostitution, or want to testify as a witness to such a crime.**

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8 WHEREAS, Assembly Member Laura Friedman introduced legislation which allows a
9 sex worker who was engaged in an act of prostitution to come forward and file a complaint if
10 they are the victim of a violent crime that occurred during the course of the act, or provide
11 testimony as a witness to such a crime, without fear of being prosecuted for the act itself; and

12 WHEREAS, Sex workers have a murder rate of 180 per 100,000 which is greatly
13 disproportionate when compared to the general public; and

14 WHEREAS, Worldwide, sex workers have a 45 to 75% chance of experiencing sexual
15 violence at some point in their careers and a 32 to 55% chance of experiencing sexual
16 violence in a given year; and

17 WHEREAS, Women and girls, who are unequally affected by human trafficking,
18 experience sexual, verbal, & physical abuse; and

19 WHEREAS, Too often, violence and rape go unreported due to the threat of being
20 arrested and prosecuted for prostitution; and

21 WHEREAS, In San Francisco one study reported over 60% of sex workers endured
22 assault while engaged in sex work; and

23 WHEREAS, The Sex Work and Trafficking Policy Impact Committee of the San
24 Francisco Mayor's Task Force on Anti-Human Trafficking worked with the San Francisco
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1 Police Department and District Attorney's Office to create "Prioritizing Safety for Sex Worker"
2 policies in San Francisco; and

3 WHEREAS; "Prioritizing Safety for Sex Worker" policies in San Francisco prohibit the
4 arrest or prosecution of a sex worker for prostitution-related offenses or minor drug crimes
5 when they report being the victim or witness of a violent crime; and

6 WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco believes every survivor of violence,
7 regardless of their employment or lifestyle, should be able to seek justice to live a life free
8 from violence; now, therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco strongly supports California
10 State Assembly Bill 2243 which protects sex workers who report a crime of violence
11 perpetrated against them during an act of prostitution, or want to testify as a witness to such a
12 crime; and be it

13 FURTHER RESOLVED, The San Francisco Board of Supervisors hereby directs the
14 Clerk of the Board to transmit copies of this resolution to the State Legislature and the City
15 Lobbyist upon passage.