

1 [Kin-GAP Resolution]

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3 **Resolution urging the California Legislature to standardize levels of aid payments for**
4 **relative and non-relative legal guardianship in its Kinship Guardianship Assistance**
5 **Program in order to encourage and support relative caretakers in taking guardianship**
6 **of dependent and "at-risk" children.**

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8 WHEREAS, It is the intent of the Legislature to move children out of the foster care
9 system and into permanent guardianship; and,

10 WHEREAS, It is the intent of the Legislature to provide equal benefits for all dependent
11 children and those at risk of dependency; and,

12 WHEREAS, The Kinship Guardianship Assistance Payment (Kin-GAP) program was
13 established in 1998 by SB 1901 in an attempt to move children out of the foster care system
14 and into permanent guardianship placements; and,

15 WHEREAS, The Legislature has expressed its intent that Kin-GAP program be utilized
16 to enhance the preservation of families and stabilize children in long-term, safe and stable
17 placements with relatives; and,

18 WHEREAS, The Kin-GAP program is currently under utilized by eligible relative foster
19 caretakers due to the loss of clothing and special needs resources for children moving from
20 foster care into the program; and,

21 WHEREAS, Aid payment amounts as well as cost of care allowances for guardian
22 families differ depending on whether or not the guardian is a relative of the child and whether
23 or not the child meets the federal eligibility requirement for foster care; and,

24 WHEREAS, The differences in aid payment amounts as well as access to cost of care
25 allowances result in disparaging amounts of support from child to child; and,

1 WHEREAS, Inequities in aid payments and benefits provide a disincentive to relatives
2 who otherwise would become guardians to foster children; and,

3 WHEREAS, It is the intent of the Legislature to equalize the aid payments across
4 relative and non-relative legal guardianship to eliminate inequities, increase the utilization of
5 Kin-GAP by relative caretakers, and to increase the welfare of children who find themselves
6 so affected;

7 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That this Board of Supervisors, County of San
8 Francisco, State of California, does hereby resolve, that legislative action is required to
9 standardize levels of aid payments for relative and non-relative legal guardianship to
10 encourage and support relative caretakers in taking guardianship of dependent and "at-risk"
11 children.