

1 [Condemning Antisemitic and Homophobic Attacks on Senator Scott Wiener]

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3 **Resolution condemning the antisemitic and homophobic attacks on Senator Scott**
4 **Wiener; and urging social media platforms to protect their users from hate speech.**

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6 WHEREAS, During August 2020, Senator Scott Wiener (D-San Francisco) became the
7 target of violent, homophobic, and antisemitic attacks organized, in part, by a right-wing
8 internet conspiracy group called QAnon; and

9 WHEREAS, According to the New York Times, QAnon “is the umbrella term for a
10 sprawling set of internet conspiracy theories that allege, falsely, that the world is run by a
11 cabal of Satan-worshipping pedophiles who are plotting against [President Donald] Trump
12 while operating a global child sex-trafficking ring,” whose members frequently engage in all
13 manner of hate speech, including antisemitism and homophobia; and

14 WHEREAS, Senator Wiener estimates that he has received more than 10,000 hateful
15 attacks, including more than 1,000 death threats against him and his staff; and

16 WHEREAS, These attackers have engaged in a practice known as “doxxing,” which
17 involves leaking private personal information to the public, making the danger presented by
18 these threats increasingly real and terrifying; and

19 WHEREAS, The attacks frequently refer to Senator Wiener as a “Jewish pedophile,”
20 reference “Zionism” or “Zionists,” and feature images of Senator Wiener that have been edited
21 to include visual tropes that were often used in antisemitic Nazi-era propaganda; and

22 WHEREAS, The frequency and intensity of these attacks have increased as right-wing
23 leaders such as radio personality Rush Limbaugh, Senator Ted Cruz, and Donald Trump, Jr.
24 have used their broad platforms to spread misinformation and incite these hateful attacks
25 against Senator Wiener; and

1 WHEREAS, Rush Limbaugh purposefully enflamed his listeners on August 30, 2020,
2 by saying “pedophilia is now legal in California,” - a claim that is demonstrably false and easily
3 disproven; and

4 WHEREAS, On September 3, 2020, Senator Ted Cruz tweeted “Dems believe we
5 need more adults having sex with children,” including a link with a photo of Senator Wiener
6 alleging that he is trying to normalize pedophilia; and

7 WHEREAS, On the same day, Donald Trump, Jr. tweeted that Senator Wiener was
8 pandering “to the wishes of pedophiles and child rapists”; and

9 WHEREAS, The attacks on Senator Wiener are part of a growing and extremely
10 dangerous white supremacist movement, which increasingly targets immigrants; Jewish and
11 Muslim individuals and other religious minorities; and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender
12 and/or intersex (LGBTI) individuals; and

13 WHEREAS, The United States Department of State reported that white supremacist
14 terrorism is on the rise around the world; and

15 WHEREAS, Domestically, this kind of online harassment can serve as a red flag to
16 real-world violence, as was the case in the 2015 attack on a Black church in Charleston,
17 South Carolina; the 2017 fatal car attack in Charlottesville, Virginia; the 2018 shooting at the
18 Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; and the 2019 shooting at the Wal-Mart in
19 El Paso, Texas; and

20 WHEREAS, White supremacist hate groups use popular social media platforms like
21 Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and Twitter to spread misinformation, radicalize those they
22 engage with, and inspire acts of violence; now, therefore, be it

23 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors stands with the Jewish and
24 LGBTI communities to denounce antisemitism and homophobia directed at Senator Scott
25 Wiener; and, be it

1 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors denounces hate
2 speech, threats of violence, and white supremacist domestic terrorism in all its forms and
3 wherever it occurs, including online; and, be it

4 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors believes
5 social media platforms are complicit in aiding and abetting the spread of white
6 supremacist violence domestically and worldwide, and that those companies have a
7 responsibility to protect the safety of their users and the public, which they continuously
8 fail to meet; and, be it

9 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges all social
10 media platforms to take their duty to protect the public seriously and prevent users from
11 engaging in hate speech, white supremacy, or threats of violence.

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