

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 condemning social media platforms for failing to intervene and protect**  
5 **their users from hate speech.**

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7 WHEREAS, San Francisco's national identity as a bastion of progressive values and  
8 diversity of elected representation have historically made its public servants the target of  
9 racist, homophobic and misogynistic hate speech, violent threats and xenophobia; and

10 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Bay Area is also the regional hometown of several  
11 tech companies that operate lucrative and largely unregulated social media platforms,  
12 including Facebook, YouTube and Twitter, that use algorithms to target messaging and user  
13 activity, but have done little to intervene and crack down on the dissemination of incendiary  
14 lies, hate speech and doxing by right-wing abusers of these high-profile information sites,  
15 which has caused irreparable damage to individuals and vulnerable communities of concern;  
16 and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

22           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges all social  
23 media platforms to take their duty to protect the public seriously and prevent users from  
24 engaging in hate speech, white supremacy, or threats of violence ; and condemns these  
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1 social media platforms for failing to intervene and protect their users from hate speech; and,  
2 be it

3 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors directs the Clerk  
4 of the Board to send a copy of this resolution to the Chief Executive Officers of Facebook,  
5 Twitter, YouTube and Instagram upon its final adoption.

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