

1 [Supporting the Green New Deal for Public Schools Act]

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3 **Resolution supporting the Green New Deal for Public Schools Act of 2021 (H.R. 4442),**
4 **to invest \$1.43 trillion to provide green renovations and retrofits to public schools to**
5 **meet health, accessibility, safety needs, identify and alleviate educational and**
6 **economic disparities among students, and provide funding for special education**
7 **services.**

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9 WHEREAS, On July 15, 2021, Representative Jamaal Bowman (D-NY) introduced the
10 Green New Deal for Public Schools Act (H.R. 4442) to invest \$1.43 trillion over 10 years in
11 public school infrastructure by retrofitting and upgrading school buildings to address climate
12 change, to expand social services for low-income students, and to bring resources to the
13 increasing needs of students with special education needs; and

14 WHEREAS, Funding for California public schools was decimated after the passage of
15 1978's Proposition 13. Prop 13 slashed the tax rate, drying up the funding for education,
16 resulting in decades of cuts to public school infrastructure, staff, and resources; California
17 went from the highest funding per student to among the lowest in the nation, with low-income
18 students suffering the most; and

19 WHEREAS, Educational consequences from school understaffing and underfunding
20 are exponentially worse across the state that traditionally serve large populations of students
21 of color and their families, who were already facing stark opportunity and opportunity gaps
22 prior to the COVID crisis; and

23 WHEREAS, The disproportionate health and economic impacts of COVID-19 on Black,
24 Latino, Asian and Pacific Islander, and Native American families, including higher rates of job
25 loss and COVID-19 infections compounded by limited access to technology and reliable

1 internet access, have only exacerbated the educational challenges that students of color have
2 had to endure during this crisis; and

3 WHEREAS, The Green New Deal for Public Schools Act (H.R. 4442) proposes \$250
4 billion in federal Resource Block Grants in funding for high-need schools to hire staff and
5 expand social services and adopt trauma-informed, culturally responsive, and restorative
6 justice practices and partner with local organizations to offer after-school programs; and

7 WHEREAS, The Green New Deal for Public Schools Act (H.R. 4442) proposes \$100
8 million for an Educational Equity Planning Grants Pilot Program to identify and address
9 sources of educational disparities to encourage equitable community development for our
10 students; and

11 WHEREAS, SFUSD is facing a projected budget deficit spike mostly stemming from an
12 additional \$25.4 million in projected special education costs; for the past two years, the San
13 Francisco Unified School District has spent \$10 million to \$20 million more than it gets from
14 local, state, and federal funding sources; and,

15 WHEREAS, Both California and the federal government have failed to appropriately
16 fund special education despite a dramatic increase in need for these services, resulting in
17 public schools being legally bound to provide services that they cannot afford; and,

18 WHEREAS, The Green New Deal for Public Schools Act (H.R. 4442) proposes \$695
19 billion to quadruple Title I funding, which provides financial assistance to schools with large
20 numbers of students from low-income families, and increased funding under the Individuals
21 with Disabilities Education Act, which the Education Department uses to guide and aid special
22 education programs, which will greatly help San Francisco schools pay for much-needed
23 special education programs; and

24 WHEREAS, In addition to the infrastructure and ventilation challenges by COVID-19 in
25 students and educators returning to the classrooms, San Francisco public schools are facing

1 the dangers of climate change via increasingly frequent and severe wildfires that threaten the
2 air quality in classrooms, which requires air ventilators and infrastructure renewal, including
3 addressing the electrical capacity of older school buildings; and,

4 WHEREAS, The Green New Deal for Public Schools Act (H.R. 4442) proposes \$446
5 billion in Climate Capital Facilities Grants and \$40 billion for a Climate Change Resiliency
6 Program to provide green retrofits for high-need schools, and offer grant funding or no- or low-
7 interest loans for schools, resources that San Francisco schools badly need; and,

8 WHEREAS, It is with great urgency that the public education system is properly fund
9 and invested in, which could have lasting impacts on students including persistent behavioral
10 and academic challenges, and the longer term impacts on our community include stagnant
11 social and economic mobility; and

12 WHEREAS, There is general agreement among parents, educators, school
13 administrators, that schools are in dire need of more economic resources to better serve
14 students; and

15 WHEREAS, Providing more federal funding will help alleviate the budget crises that
16 public school systems are facing; and

17 WHEREAS, There is nearly unanimous consensus within the scientific community that
18 climate change is a real and imminent threat to our collective health and safety, and to the
19 stability of governments; and

20 WHEREAS, The Green New Deal for Public Schools has already been endorsed by
21 the American Federation of Teachers, Sunrise Movement, EduColor, Alliance for Quality
22 Education, Justice Democrats, Climate Justice Alliance, Green New Deal Network, People's
23 Action, Center for Popular Democracy, Global Grassroots Justice Alliance, Democratic
24 Socialists of America, Working Families Party, Indivisible, Jobs with Justice, Green Latinos,
25 Future Coalition, March for Our Lives, Friends of the Earth US, Sierra Club, Greenpeace USA,

1 Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO), Progressive Democrats of
2 America, and 350.org, and other environmental justice and labor organizations; and

3 WHEREAS, Education is an important duty to the younger generation, that have a
4 moral obligation to protect the integrity of the educational institutions by ensuring that they are
5 well resourced and equipped to overcome the current and future challenges presented by the
6 COVID-19 health crisis and rectify past failures to adequately resource institutions, and the
7 passage of the Green New Deal for Public School Act will ensure that public school institutions
8 are properly resource and invested in; now, therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors supports the Green New
10 Deal for Public School Act; and be it

11 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San
12 Francisco urges its local federal elected officials, including the Speaker of the House Pelosi,
13 Senator Diane Feinstein, and Senator Alex Padilla, to champion the renewed investment in
14 education and recovery of our public education system by adding their names as co-sponsors
15 of the Green New Deal for Public Schools Act (H.R. 4442); and be it

16 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors hereby directs
17 the Clerk of the Board to transmit copies to members of Congress from San Francisco and the
18 United States Senators from California with a request to take all action necessary to achieve
19 the objectives of this resolution.