

1 [Urging Acknowledgment of the Service Disparities of Transgender and Repatriated Veterans  
2 and Building of Strategies that Address these Disparities]

3 **Resolution urging the United States Department of Veterans Affairs and the San**  
4 **Francisco Fort Miley Department of Veteran Affairs to acknowledge the disparities of**  
5 **physical and psychological health and medical care among transgender, black**  
6 **transgender, and repatriated veterans; and to develop transformative strategies for**  
7 **increasing access to these necessary veteran affairs benefits.**

8  
9 WHEREAS, Veterans of the United States Uniformed Services may be eligible for a  
10 variety of Department of Veterans Affairs programs and services, and many subpopulations of  
11 veterans, such as transgender and immigrant veterans, face more discrimination when trying  
12 to receive these benefits than others; and

13 WHEREAS, Over 134,000 American veterans are reported to be transgender, and over  
14 15,000 transgender individuals currently serve in the military; and

15 WHEREAS, Despite the fact that they have recently been completely acknowledged by  
16 the US Military, the Department of Veteran Affairs, and Congress, non cis-gender veterans  
17 continue to face discrimination in accessing proper health care and benefits; and

18 WHEREAS, Black transgender veterans experience higher rates of discrimination,  
19 unmet health care needs, lack of access to VA compensation, and housing insecurity than  
20 their non-black counterparts; and

21 WHEREAS, The United States Department of Veterans Affairs recently approved  
22 payment of fees associated with gender confirmation surgery for veterans, as well as declared  
23 a commitment to providing quality treatment to transgender veterans; and

24 WHEREAS, While the Veterans Health Administration aims to address issues of  
25 inequality for transgender veterans, there are still some concerns with care administration,

1 adequate staff and physician training, and the provision of holistic services for transgender  
2 veterans' specific healthcare needs; and

3 WHEREAS, Immigrant veterans subject to deportation also face barriers to accessing  
4 their health care benefits, and today, around 530,000 veterans were born outside of the  
5 United States, accounting for about 3% of all 18.6 million veterans of the US Military; and

6 WHEREAS, Following the establishment of the Violent Crime Control and Law  
7 Enforcement Act, the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has developed  
8 policies for handling cases of noncitizen veterans who may be subject to removal from the  
9 United States but does not consistently adhere to those policies and does not consistently  
10 identify and track such veterans, which has led to the deportation of non-citizen veterans from  
11 the United States at unprecedented rates; and

12 WHEREAS, As of July 2021, The Biden administration announced with the Veteran  
13 Deportation Prevention and Reform Act that it will formalize a new procedure that will allow  
14 immigrants who served in the military but were later deported to lawfully return to the United  
15 States for repatriation; and

16 WHEREAS, When deported veterans return to the United States, many of them lack  
17 the essential support structures - such as medical care, housing, and other resources - that  
18 they need to succeed in society; and

19 WHEREAS, Honorably discharged veterans who are deported are unable to access  
20 vital government benefit programs such as those that provide educational opportunities and  
21 health care even though they are still eligible for those benefits, and are required to attend  
22 hearings and meetings in the United States in order to regain access to these benefits,  
23 leaving these veterans without services for extended periods of time which may have adverse  
24 effects on their health and outcomes; and

25

1           WHEREAS, Both transgender and immigrant veterans face inequity within the health  
2 care and veteran services system on the basis of their identity or citizenship status; and

3           WHEREAS, A consequence of the intersection of serving in the Military and  
4 experiencing discrimination when returning home or retiring from service in the field is  
5 increased psychological suffering which leads to an increased risk of suicide among veterans  
6 experiencing discrimination; and

7           WHEREAS, Over the previous decade, the United States has made some headway in  
8 lowering the daily rate of successful suicide among veterans from 22 to 18 rounded (17.2  
9 statistically) per day, however, the numbers are still far too high; and

10           WHEREAS, The Fort Miley Department of Veteran Affairs sets out to provide general  
11 medical, surgical, and psychiatric services for veterans in San Francisco, many of which  
12 belong to these vulnerable veteran populations; now, therefore, be it

13           RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the United States Department of  
14 Veterans Affairs and the San Francisco Fort (Ft.) Miley Department of Veteran Affairs to  
15 acknowledge the disparities of physical and psychological health and medical care among  
16 transgender, Black transgender, and repatriated veterans, and to develop transformative  
17 strategies for increasing access to these necessary VA benefits; and, be it

18           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board urges the Ft. Miley Department of Veteran  
19 Affairs Director to demonstrate how their faculty is providing discrimination free access to its  
20 facilities for Transgender Veterans, and specifically, Black transgender veterans; and, be it

21           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City of San Francisco partners with the Veterans  
22 Congressional Budget Office and the Ft. Miley Department of Veteran Affairs to create a  
23 marketing strategy for combatting suicide among veterans; and, be it

24  
25

1            FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors recognizes every United States  
2 veteran’s right to medical care and access regardless of racial or gender identity and  
3 citizenship status.

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25