Resolution in support of the passage of AB 2161 (Hancock), AB 2193 (Bass), AB 2481 (Evans), AB 2488 (Leno) and AB 2489 (Leno) to improve and enhance the State's Child Welfare Services to promote successful outcomes for California's, and San Francisco's, foster youth.

WHEREAS, there are 84,389 children and youth in the California foster care system with 4,355 youth aging out every year: and,

WHEREAS, there are 2,326 youth in foster care in San Francisco, of which 850 youth are emancipating between 2005 and 2009: and,

WHEREAS, the California Child Welfare System is governed by antiquated policies and regulations that present barriers to connecting foster children with families who are prepared and able to provide supportive and nurturing homes; that provides inadequate funding to reduce child welfare workers caseloads which are roughly double the recommended minimum standards; that provides no incentives for recruitment, retention or support for foster or adoptive homes; and, that creates obstacles to foster youth connecting with their siblings: and,

WHEREAS, 75% of children and youth in foster care work below grade level, more than 35% of foster youth are in special education, only 46% of former foster youth complete high school and only 10% enroll in college: and,
WHEREAS, AB 2161 will streamline the process for licensing and approving relatives, foster families and adoptive parents who care for children who are abused and neglected by merging multiple, duplicative and confusing State laws and regulations into a single, unified process that will reduce the length of time children spend in the system who are in need of permanent adoptive homes and increase placement stability for children: and,

WHEREAS, AB 2193 will implement the recommendations of the SB 2030 Task Force to reduce extraordinarily high workloads for California’s child welfare workers through changing the State budgeting standard and requiring counties to develop local plans consistent with existing system improvement plans, as required by AB 636, to provide child welfare workers with additional time and/or supports to address workload issues and reach desired outcomes for children and families: and,

WHEREAS, AB 2481 will increase by 5% the basic rates paid to foster parents to address the fact that California has not increased the reimbursement rates for foster family home placements in over five years so that the State now pays less to care for a foster child ($505/month) then the average kennel charges for a dog ($620/month), and AB 2481 will also create a State-administered fund to support locally-driven efforts to recruit and support foster and adoptive families so that more children can remain in their community in stable, long-term homes: and,

WHEREAS, AB 2488 will amend Family Code section 9205 to remove overly restrictive barriers in the law that prohibit the State Department of Social Services or an adoption agency from releasing sibling contact information post-adoption unless each sibling has reached the
age of 21 and each has filed a confidentiality waiver, making it easier for siblings to find each
other after one or more of them have been adopted through the foster care system: and,

WHEREAS, AB 2489 will improve opportunities for foster youth to pursue their
educational goals by expanding the State Foster Youth Services Program in K-12 to serve all
foster youth and former foster youth in Family Maintenance; waiving tuition/fees for foster
youth attending the UC and CSU systems; providing for housing preferences and year round
housing for foster youth attending UC or CSU schools; and providing State incentives to
colleges and universities in California to expand the Guardian Scholars Program which offers
financial and emotional support for foster youth attending college; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco urges the California State
Senate and Assembly to support passage of the aforementioned legislation to improve
outcomes for children, youth and families involved with the foster care system in California.
Resolution in support of the passage of AB 2161 (Hancock), AB 2193 (Bass), AB 2481 (Evans), AB 2488 (Leno) and AB 2489 (Leno) to improve and enhance the State's Child Welfare Services to promote successful outcomes for California's, and San Francisco's, foster youth.

April 18, 2006 Board of Supervisors — ADOPTED
Ayes: 9 - Ammiano, Daly, Duffy, Elbernd, Ma, Maxwell, Mirkarimi, Peskin, Sandoval
Excused: 2 - Alioto-Pier, McGoldrick

File No. 060489

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on April 18, 2006 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

4.20.06
Date Approved

Mayor Gavin Newsom