

1 [Preventing Bullying and Suicide of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning
2 (LGBTQ) Youth]

3
4 **Resolution affirming the importance of maintaining a safety net for LGBTQ youth, and**
5 **encouraging schools, colleges and universities to prevent bullying and raise**
6 **awareness about LGBTQ suicide prevention services.**

7
8 WHEREAS, Rutgers University freshman Tyler Clementi committed suicide by jumping
9 off the George Washington Bridge after two classmates invaded his privacy and streamed
10 Tyler's intimate encounter with another man online; and

11 WHEREAS, Tyler Clementi is one of several suicides in recent weeks by young gay
12 teenagers across the U.S. that have been harassed by classmates both in person and online;

13 WHEREAS, The Massachusetts 2006 Youth Risk Survey found that lesbian, gay,
14 bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) youth were up to four times more likely to
15 attempt suicide than their heterosexual peers; and

16 WHEREAS, A 2009 San Francisco State University study entitled "Family Rejection as
17 a Predictor of Negative Health Outcomes" shows that youth who were rejected by their
18 families for being lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) were 8.4 times more likely to
19 report having attempted suicide; and

20 WHEREAS, A recent University of Washington study found that students that identified
21 as heterosexual, but also reported being attracted to people of the same sex, were three
22 times as likely as heterosexual students to have made a plan to commit suicide in the past
23 year and six times more likely to have attempted suicide in the same period; and

1 WHEREAS, Many teens and young adults are driven to suicide because of the trauma
2 of being bullied. A 2009 report by the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network found
3 that 85 percent of LGBT students experienced harassment at school the previous year; and

4 WHEREAS, the San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) recognizes that
5 creating a safe classroom is paramount for students to focus on learning, and that school
6 bullying remains a problem in our schools; and

7 WHEREAS, San Francisco has long been a safe haven for LGBTQ youth fleeing
8 abusive situations in their schools, homes and communities; and

9 WHEREAS, SFUSD offers tools and curriculum for teachers to discuss LGBTQ topics
10 and collects data to track bullying among LGBTQ students; and

11 WHEREAS, Several resources exist to prevent LGBTQ teen suicide, including the
12 Trevor Project, a leading national organization that provides a crisis hotline, a secure online
13 messaging service to answer questions and concerns, and public policy solutions; and

14 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Bay Area is home to several LGBTQ organizations
15 offering support to youth in our schools, including Ally Action, AQU25A, COLAGE,
16 Community United Against Violence (CUAV), Dimensions Health Clinic, Frameline, Gay-
17 Straight Alliance Network, LYRIC, Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays
18 (PFLAG), Our Family Coalition, Respect for All Project, and the San Francisco LGBT Center;
19 and, therefore be it

20 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
21 affirms the importance of maintaining the City and County of San Francisco's social safety net
22 for LGBTQ youth, especially mental health and youth support services; and, be it

23 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors encourages schools, colleges
24 and universities to increase their efforts to stop bullying, raise awareness about LGBTQ youth
25 suicide prevention, and foster understanding and acceptance among its student populations.



City and County of San Francisco

Tails
Resolution

City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

File Number: 101276

Date Passed: October 19, 2010

Resolution affirming the importance of maintaining a safety net for LGBTQ youth, and encouraging schools, colleges, and universities to prevent bullying and raise awareness about LGBTQ suicide prevention services.

October 19, 2010 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED

Ayes: 11 - Alioto-Pier, Avalos, Campos, Chiu, Chu, Daly, Dufty, Elsbernd, Mar, Maxwell and Mirkarimi

File No. 101276

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 10/19/2010 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

Mayor Gavin Newsom

October 22, 2010

Date Approved