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

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.

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, A recent University of Washington study found that students that identified as heterosexual, but also reported being attracted to people of the same sex, were three times as likely as heterosexual students to have made a plan to commit suicide in the past year and six times more likely to have attempted suicide in the same period; and
WHEREAS, Many teens and young adults are driven to suicide because of the trauma of being bullied. A 2009 report by the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network found that 85 percent of LGBT students experienced harassment at school the previous year; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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
Date Approved

October 22, 2010