Resolution supporting the Campus Safety and Accountability Act of 2015, landmark anti-sexual assault legislation that will better protect and empower students, increase responsiveness when crimes occur; and establish more transparent and uniform accountability standards for colleges and universities.

WHEREAS, An American woman aged 18 to 24 is at the highest risk of sexual assault victimization compared to women in all other age groups; and

WHEREAS, In 2013 alone, colleges and universities reported over 5,000 forcible sex offenses to the U.S. Department of Education; and

WHEREAS, Forty-one percent of schools have not conducted a single investigation of a sexual assault complaint in the last five years and only 10-25% of students found "responsible" for sexual assault were permanently kicked off campus; and

WHEREAS, Approximately 80% of sexual assault crimes against undergraduate women go unreported to the police; and

WHEREAS, Only 16% of student survivors of sexual assault received assistance from a victims services agency that provides aid in recovery, guidance through the criminal justice system, and/or assistance in obtaining restitution; and

WHEREAS, A chronic lack of training of on-campus personnel hampers sexual assault investigations and disciplinary processes, often creating conditions that result in retraumatization of survivors; and

WHEREAS, In the City and County of San Francisco, there are more than 105,000 students enrolled in the more than twenty local colleges and universities; and

Supervisors Kim; Tang
WHEREAS, San Francisco has long been dedicated to a survivor-centered approach in its anti-violence work, in which the survivor's wishes, safety, and well-being take priority in all procedures; and

WHEREAS, The survivor-centered Campus Safety and Accountability Act (CASA) was introduced on July 7, 2014, by a bipartisan coalition of Senators in the United States Senate, led by Senators Claire McCaskill and Kirsten Gillenbrand, where it failed to pass before the end of the 113th Congress; and

WHEREAS, CASA was reintroduced on February 26, 2015, providing the 114th Congress the opportunity to finally pass this critical piece of public safety legislation; and

WHEREAS, CASA is intended to curtail the epidemic of sexual violence on college and university campuses by protecting and empowering students, strengthening accountability and transparency for schools, and establishing penalties for non-compliance; and

WHEREAS, Under CASA, colleges and universities will be required to designate confidential advisors who will serve as a resource for survivors of assault, and who will also be tasked with coordinating support services and accommodations for survivors, providing information about reporting options, and guidance or assistance in reporting the crime to campus authorities and/or local law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, CASA ensures that the confidential advisor, as well as all those responsible for investigating these crimes, and all those participating in disciplinary proceedings, will receive specialized training to ensure that they have a firm understanding of the nature of these crimes and their effect on survivors; and

WHEREAS, CASA requires that students at every university in America be surveyed about their experiences with sexual violence so that a more accurate picture of the scope of this crisis can be established; and
WHEREAS, The new annual survey will be standardized and anonymous, and the results will be published online so that parents, caregivers, and students can make informed decisions when comparing universities; and

WHEREAS, CASA will require colleges and universities to enter into memoranda of understanding with all applicable local law enforcement agencies to clearly delineate responsibilities and share information so that when an assault occurs, both campus authorities and local authorities can focus on solving the crime rather than debating jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, Schools that do not comply with certain requirements under CASA may face a penalty of up to one percent of the institution’s operating budget; and

WHEREAS, CASA is intended to reverse the cover-up culture that exists on campuses by encouraging colleges and universities to prevent sexual assaults, get rid of sexual predators, and educate students and university officials about the problem; and

WHEREAS, CASA would have a positive impact on the health and safety of the tens of thousands of students that reside and study here in the City and County of San Francisco; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco urges the Congress of the United States to pass the Campus Accountability and Safety Act, or similar legislation, aimed at preventing sexual assaults on campuses and protecting survivors in the event of a crime, and which would require colleges and universities to designate confidential advisors for sexual assault survivors, provide specialized training to ensure that college and university staff properly respond to these kinds of crimes, and provide information regarding sexual assaults on campuses so that individuals are able to make better-informed decisions regarding school choices; and, be it
FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco hereby directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit copies to Senator Claire McCaskill and the members of Congress from San Francisco and the United States Senators from California with a request to take all action necessary to achieve the objectives of this Resolution.
Resolution supporting the Campus Safety and Accountability Act of 2015, landmark anti-sexual assault legislation that will better protect and empower students, increase responsiveness when crimes occur; and establish more transparent and uniform accountability standards for colleges and universities.

March 10, 2015 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED
Ayes: 11 - Avalos, Breed, Campos, Christensen, Cohen, Farrell, Kim, Mar, Tang, Wiener and Yee

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 3/10/2015 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution, not being signed by the Mayor within the time limit as set forth in Section 3.103 of the Charter, or time waived pursuant to Board Rule 2.14.2, became effective without his approval in accordance with the provision of said Section 3.103 of the Charter or Board Rule 2.14.2.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

Date: 3/24/15