Resolution urging the passage of the United States Senate Bill 910, introduced by United States Senator Jeff Merkley (D-OR), the Secure and Fair Enforcement Banking (SAFE) Act of 2021, and the urgent introduction of federal legislation to legalize cannabis.

WHEREAS, Despite being illegal at the federal level, thirty-three states, four U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia have authorized the use of medical cannabis; and

WHEREAS, 22 states, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the District of Columbia have decriminalized cannabis and ten states, the Northern Mariana Islands, the District of Columbia, and three Native American tribes have legalized adult use of cannabis; and

WHEREAS, Cannabis is classified as a Schedule I drug under the Controlled Substances Act, classifying it among the most dangerous drugs in the Act; and

WHEREAS, The federal classification of cannabis as a Schedule I drug creates significant challenges to medical cannabis dispensaries and cannabis-related businesses that are operating legally pursuant to state law and presents difficulties for consumers or businesses that are authorized to grow, sell, or purchase cannabis products under state law; and

WHEREAS, Due to the conflict between state and federal law, the vast majority of financial institutions and insurers are unwilling to provide services and those that do could be subject to severe criminal and civil penalties; and

WHEREAS, Legislation has been introduced in Congress and passed in the House of Representatives to provide protection and immunity from federal prosecution for institutions providing financial services to cannabis-related businesses acting under state law; and
WHEREAS, The United States has an incarceration crisis that has destabilized millions of Americans, caused intergenerational harm and trauma to families, decimated entire communities, and disproportionately impacted communities of color, particularly Black communities; and

WHEREAS, The legalization of cannabis is a key step in helping to heal communities of color who have been damaged deeply by the war on drugs; and

WHEREAS, The House of Representatives introduced and passed H.R.1996 Secure and Fair Enforcement Banking Act of 2021 (SAFE Banking Act of 2021) which would prohibit a federal banking regulator from penalizing a depository institution for providing banking services to a legitimate cannabis-related business; and

WHEREAS, The Senate introduced its counterpart S.910 SAFE Banking Act of 2021 on March 23, 2021; and

WHEREAS, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer has publicly stated he is preparing to introduce a federal cannabis legalization legislation in the coming months; and

WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco and the San Francisco Board of Supervisors have repeatedly passed ordinances, resolutions, and propositions supporting the expansion and legalization of cannabis use throughout its history; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, The San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges the United States Senate to pass the SAFE Banking Act of 2021; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, The San Francisco Board of Supervisors supports the urgent introduction of federal legislation to remove cannabis from the federal Controlled Substance Act, expunge prior marijuana convictions, and provide financial services and other resources for small, and Black and Brown-owned cannabis businesses; and
FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors hereby directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit a copy of this Resolution to the Offices of Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, Senator Dianne Feinstein, and Senator Alex Padilla.
Resolution urging the passage of the United States Senate Bill 910, introduced by United States Senator Jeff Merkley (D-OR), the Secure and Fair Enforcement Banking (SAFE) Act of 2021, and the urgent introduction of federal legislation to legalize cannabis.

April 27, 2021 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED
Ayes: 11 - Chan, Haney, Mandelman, Mar, Melgar, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, Safai, Stefani and Walton

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 4/27/2021 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 her 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

Signature
05/07/2021
Date