

1 [Supporting California State Assembly Bill No. 1226 (Haney) - Keep Families Close Act]

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3 **Resolution supporting California State Assembly Bill No. 1226, Keep Families Close**
4 **Act, authored by Assembly Member Matt Haney, to require the California Department of**
5 **Corrections and Rehabilitation to respect the rights of minor children to remain in**
6 **contact with their incarcerated parents.**

7
8 WHEREAS, Parents and caregivers play a critical role in the development of their
9 children and data shows that up until the age of 18, frequent contact between the child and
10 their parent is crucial for the child’s behavioral and emotional development; and

11 WHEREAS, Currently, about 195,000 children have incarcerated parents in California
12 state prisons; and

13 WHEREAS, Due to sudden separation from their caregiver, children with incarcerated
14 parents experience unique issues such as antisocial behavior and drug abuse, however,
15 children who are able to maintain contact with their parents, experience less severe harmful
16 impacts; and

17 WHEREAS, The existing law requires the California Department of Corrections and
18 Rehabilitation (CDCR) to conduct assessments and examinations of all inmates who are
19 newly committed to a state prison that include investigation of all pertinent circumstances of
20 the person’s life, including, but not limited to, data regarding the inmate’s history of substance
21 abuse, medical and mental health, education, family background, criminal activity, and social
22 functioning; and

23 WHEREAS, The existing law requires the Secretary of the Department of Corrections
24 and Rehabilitation to assign a prisoner to the institution of the appropriate security level and
25

1 gender population nearest the prisoner's home, unless other classification factors make such
2 a placement unreasonable; and

3 WHEREAS, In a large state like California, there are thousands of incarcerated parents
4 who are placed more than 500 miles from their children; and

5 WHEREAS, Incarcerated mothers, in particular, struggle to maintain contact with their
6 children as more than half of incarcerated mothers do not receive any visits from their children
7 while they are in prison; and

8 WHEREAS, The single most significant reason for the lack of contact is the children's
9 distance from their mothers' prisons, many of which are located far from major cities; and

10 WHEREAS, Research shows that children with incarcerated mothers particularly
11 struggle with behavioral health issues, which underscores the need for children to maintain
12 contact with their incarcerated parents, especially mothers; and

13 WHEREAS, In 2019, CDCR released information that only 25% of incarcerated people
14 in California state prisons are placed in institutions less than 100 miles from home; and

15 WHEREAS, The long distances place a burden on families who do not have the
16 financial means or the time to travel across the state for family visits and visitation falls off
17 significantly the farther from home a person is incarcerated; and

18 WHEREAS, 50% of people placed less than 50 miles away from home receive frequent
19 family visitation, but only 15% of people placed 500 miles away receive visitors; and

20 WHEREAS, Assembly Bill No. 1226 (AB 1226), the Keep Families Close Act, authored
21 by Assembly Member Matt Haney (AD-17) will require the CDCR to respect the rights of minor
22 children to remain in contact with their incarcerated parents and place any newly incarcerated
23 parent, legal guardian, or caregiver of a minor child in the correctional facility closest to that
24 child's home; and

1 WHEREAS, AB 1226 will also allow already incarcerated parents to request a transfer
2 to a prison closer to their child's home; and

3 WHEREAS, AB 1226 has bipartisan support at the California State Legislature and
4 recently passed out of the Assembly Public Safety Committee on March 27, 2023,
5 unanimously; and

6 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors hereby supports California
7 State Assembly Bill No. 1226, the Keep Families Together Act, and urges the California State
8 Legislature to pass this bill to make it easier between children and their incarcerated parents
9 to maintain contact and build their relationship while the parent is serving their term in an
10 institution closest to their child's home; and, be it

11 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors hereby directs the Clerk of the
12 Board to transmit a copy of this Resolution to the California Senate President pro Tempore
13 Toni Atkins, California Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon, Governor Gavin Newsom, and
14 the Bill's primary sponsor, Assembly Member Matt Haney.



City and County of San Francisco

Tails
Resolution

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

File Number: 230490

Date Passed: May 02, 2023

Resolution supporting California State Assembly Bill No. 1226, Keep Families Close Act, authored by Assembly Member Matt Haney, to require the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to respect the rights of minor children to remain in contact with their incarcerated parents.

May 02, 2023 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED

Ayes: 11 - Chan, Dorsey, Engardio, Mandelman, Melgar, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, Safai, Stefani and Walton

File No. 230490

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 5/2/2023 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Handwritten signature of Angela Calvillo
Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

Unsigned

05/10/2023

London N. Breed
Mayor

Date Approved

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.

Handwritten signature of Angela Calvillo
Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

05/10/2023

Date