Resolution declaring support for United States Senate Bill 3036, the Keep Families Together Act, authored by Senator Feinstein, which prohibits an officer of a designated agency from removing a child from his or her parent or legal guardian, at or near the port of entry on the United States border.

WHEREAS, On April 6, 2018, United States Attorney General Jeff Sessions released an official memorandum and directive for federal prosecutors along the southwest border entitled, "Zero-Tolerance for Offenses Under 8 U.S.C. § 1325(a)"; and

WHEREAS, The memorandum outlines warnings of strict policies and harsh treatments to deter prospective immigrants from attempting to cross the southern border with their children; and

WHEREAS, Under this policy, adults suspected of crossing the United States border illegally are detained in federal facilities or detention centers to await prosecution; and

WHEREAS, Under this policy, if it is found that children are in accompaniment, they are forcibly and cruelly separated from their parents or guardians and placed in separate detention centers run by the Office of Refugee Resettlement; and

WHEREAS, According to the United States Department of Homeland Security, 2,342 children have been separated from their parents and/or legal guardians after crossing the Southern United States Board since early May 2018; and

WHEREAS, There is a severe lack of transparency and information about how Customs and Border Protection physically tears children from their parents' arms, how or whether parents are notified or kept updated on their children's conditions, or whether parents and children are able to communicate; and
WHEREAS, According to the Texas Civil Rights Project, multiple parents reported that after being traumatically separated from their children, they were not given any basic information about where their children would go or for how long they would be apart; and

WHEREAS, This terrifying experience of being separated from one’s child or one’s parent is traumatic and can lead to long-term physical and mental distress; and

WHEREAS, A chilling report revealed a father took his own life after the strain of being separated from his three-year-old son and family after being detained in Texas; and

WHEREAS, The individuals and families who attempt to cross the United States border to seek specialized relief and obtain asylum from life-threatening violence and persecution experienced in home nations are incredibly vulnerable; and

WHEREAS, Further stress is inflicted on young children when they are forcibly removed from their parents by federal law enforcement agents and such practices are traumatizing, immoral, and unconscionable; and

WHEREAS, The High Commissioner for Human Rights of the United Nations, Zeid Ra’ad Al Hussein, has referred to family separation as a “cruel practice” and has stated that no nation should use family separation as a deterrent in the context of immigration; and

WHEREAS, These horrifying, inhumane, vicious practices completely violate American values and are fundamentally unacceptable under the nation’s ethics and global reputation as a safe haven for immigrants; and

WHEREAS, San Francisco’s representatives in Congress, including Senator Dianne Feinstein, Senator Kamala Harris, and Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi have all condemned the Trump administration’s policy of separating families at the United States border; and

WHEREAS, Former United States First Ladies Rosalynn Carter, Hillary Clinton, Laura Bush, and Michelle Obama, have all condemned the Trump administration’s policy; and
WHEREAS, This destructive policy is not required under any law at any level of government in the United States; and

WHEREAS, This policy is unique to the Trump administration, and current officials, including United States President Trump, Attorney General Jeff Sessions and Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen, can choose to end this practice, reunite families, and release them together from detention facilities at any time; and

WHEREAS, On Thursday, June 7th, Senator Dianne Feinstein introduced United States Senate Bill 3036 (S. 3036), the Keep Families Together Act; and

WHEREAS, This bill was drafted in consultation with the American Academy of Pediatrics to ensure the protection and welfare of children and their families; and

WHEREAS, Senator Dianne Feinstein has gained the support of 48 other Senators agree that the practice of ripping children from their families is inhumane, immoral, and un-American, including Senator Kamala Harris; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges the United States Senate to approve Senator Feinstein’s S. 3036, the Keep Families Together Act, to end the Trump Administration’s callous policy, protect the well-being of children, reunite families, and uphold American principles, values, and ideals.
Resolution declaring support for United States Senate Bill 3036, the Keep Families Together Act, authored by Senator Feinstein, which prohibits an officer of a designated agency from removing a child from his or her parent or legal guardian, at or near the port of entry on the United States border.

June 26, 2018 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED
Ayes: 11 - Breed, Cohen, Fewer, Kim, Peskin, Ronen, Safai, Sheehy, Stefani, Tang and Yee

File No. 180667

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 6/26/2018 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

Mark Farrell
Mayor

Date Approved
6/26/18