

1 [Urging Opposition to Governor Brown's Proposal to Raise the Cal Grant Threshold]

2 **Resolution urging the San Francisco Board of Supervisors and the Mayor to oppose**  
3 **California Governor Jerry Brown's 2012-2013 budget proposal which would raise the**  
4 **bar for Cal Grant financial aid.**

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6 WHEREAS, Cal Grants are scholarships funded by the State of California, and a small  
7 portion from the Federal Government, used to help students pay for their college tuition and  
8 fees; and,

9 WHEREAS, Cal Grants can be used at any California State University, California  
10 Community College, University of California, and other colleges that qualify in California; and,

11 WHEREAS, There were approximately 329,300 Cal Grant recipients and a total of  
12 \$1,294,553,000 granted as of 2010-11;<sup>1</sup> and,

13 WHEREAS, In the City and County of San Francisco, 7,115 students were granted a  
14 total of \$34,425,000 in Cal Grants for the 2010-2011 school year; and,

15 WHEREAS, Participation in the Cal Grant program and costs have increased since  
16 2004 from 177,000 students and \$688 million to an estimated 256,000 students and \$1.6  
17 billion in the upcoming year;<sup>2</sup> and,

18 WHEREAS, Governor Brown's proposed budget for 2012-2013 includes a reduction in  
19 funding for the Cal Grant program by \$131.2 million, which will be achieved by increasing the  
20 minimum GPA requirement for Cal Grant in the following way: for Cal Grant A from 3.0 to  
21 3.25; for Cal Grant B from 2.0 to 2.75; and for community college transfers from 2.4 to 2.75—  
22 all of which will make it harder for students to qualify; and,

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24 <sup>1</sup> [http://www.csac.ca.gov/pubs/forms/grnt\\_frm/2010-11\\_calgrantsbycalegislativeidistrict.pdf](http://www.csac.ca.gov/pubs/forms/grnt_frm/2010-11_calgrantsbycalegislativeidistrict.pdf)

25 <sup>2</sup> Rivera, Carla. "Budget Plan Would Raise the Bar for Cal Grant Financial Aid." *Los Angeles Times*. 15 Jan. 2012. Web. 10 Feb. 2012. <<http://articles.latimes.com/2012/jan/15/local/la-me-cal-grant-20120115>>

1 WHEREAS, This cut would also take away the chance of many students, especially  
2 those from low-income families, to attend their top-choice school, due to financial issues; and,

3 WHEREAS, About 26,600 prospective UC, Cal State and Community College students  
4 would be affected by this change in the 2012-13 academic year; and,

5 WHEREAS, The facts that the deadline for financial aid applications was March 2nd,  
6 2012 and the state budget won't be finalized until the summer make it difficult for many high  
7 school seniors to make a financially responsible decision about what college to attend by the  
8 May 1st, 2012 deadline for state institutions; and,

9 WHEREAS, Students who are uninformed about this proposal will be very likely to  
10 choose to attend a college they may not be able to afford if this proposal passes; and,

11 WHEREAS, Since this proposal makes it harder for students to be eligible for Cal  
12 Grants, many students who are already struggling to achieve academically would be more  
13 likely to drop out of college and try to find jobs, causing unemployment rates to increase and  
14 creating higher demands for unemployment benefits; now, therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Youth Commission urges and the Honorable  
16 Board of Supervisors and the Mayor to oppose California Governor Jerry Brown's 2012-2013  
17 budget proposal to raise the bar for Cal Grant financial aid.

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LEAH LACROIX

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2011-2012 YOUTH COMMISSION CHAIR

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ADOPTED BY YOUTH COMMISSION

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MARCH 19, 2012