

1 [Urging the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors to support the ban on ineffective and harmful
2 conversion therapy for persons under 18 (SB 1172)]

3 **Resolution urging the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors to protect lesbian, gay,**
4 **bisexual, transgender, queer, or questioning (LGBTQQ) youth by supporting a**
5 **California ban on efforts to change youth’s sexual orientation.**

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7 WHEREAS, Being lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, or questioning
8 (LGBTQQ) is not a disease, a disorder, illness, deficiency, or shortcoming; and

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10 WHEREAS, The major professional associations of mental health practitioners and
11 researchers in the United States have recognized these facts for nearly 40 years; and

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13 WHEREAS, There are a small fraction of mental health professionals that practice
14 conversion therapy, also known as reparative therapy is an effort to change one’s sexual
15 orientation and/or gender identity from lesbian, gay bisexual, transgender, or queer into a
16 straight and gender conforming person; and

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18 WHEREAS, Conversion therapy is not a form of psychiatry or psychology because its
19 origins are from religious ideology, not science; and

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21 WHEREAS, Telling LGBTQQ youth at such a vulnerable age that who they are is not
22 acceptable further shames and dehumanizes them when they already receive that message
23 every day through the bullies at school and on the streets; and

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1 WHEREAS, This practice uses one interpretation of the Bible to tell youth that they are
2 unnatural, an abomination, and deserving of death; and

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4 WHEREAS, Conversion therapy by definition is an attempt to forcefully change
5 people's naturally occurring sexual orientation and gender identity and replace it with a
6 straight orientation; and

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8 WHEREAS, In the past 40 years "reparative therapists" have not produced any
9 rigorous scientific research to substantiate their claims of cure; and

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11 WHEREAS, "Not only is homosexuality 'not a choice,' as most efforts to try and change
12 a person's sexual orientation fail, but some attempts to change can cause harm and damage
13 to an individual's well-being," as Dr. Jack Drescher, MD, a Distinguished Fellow of the
14 American Psychiatric Association and a member of the DSM-5 Workgroup on Sexual and
15 Gender Identity Disorders, has said; and

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17 WHEREAS, Conversion therapy is routinely forced on young people without their
18 consent; and

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20 WHEREAS, The same groups of people who support psychiatric conversion therapy
21 have historically used other shockingly dangerous practices in an attempt to change people's
22 sexual orientation and gender identity, including, for example, aversion therapy (shocking
23 people with electricity while showing gay images), lobotomies, torture, and rape; and

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1 WHEREAS, The American Psychological Association convened a Task Force on
2 Appropriate Therapeutic Responses to Sexual Orientation and concluded that “Sexual
3 orientation change efforts can pose critical health risks to lesbian, gay, bisexual [transgender,
4 queer, and questioning] people including confusion, depression, guilt, helplessness,
5 hopelessness, shame, social withdrawal, suicidality, substance abuse, stress, disappointment,
6 self-blame, decreased self esteem and authenticity to others, increased self-hatred, hostility
7 and blame toward parents, feelings of anger and betrayal, loss of friends and potential
8 romantic partners, problems in sexual and emotional intimacy, sexual dysfunction, high-risk
9 sexual behaviors, a feeling of being dehumanized and untrue to self, a loss of faith, and a
10 sense of wasted time and resources;” and

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12 WHEREAS, Every major medical and psychiatric association has come out stating that
13 sexual orientation and gender identity cannot be changed including the American Academy of
14 Pediatrics, American Counseling Association, American Federation of Teachers, American
15 Psychological Association, The Interfaith Alliance, National Association of School
16 Psychologists, National Association of Social Workers, National Association of Secondary
17 School Principals, and the National Education Association; and

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19 WHEREAS, Many of the biggest supporters of conversion therapy have since come out
20 saying that this therapy is harmful and ineffective; and

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22 WHEREAS, The founders and leaders of Exodus International, the largest conversion
23 therapy organization, have issued a formal apology explaining that efforts to change sexual
24 orientation are ineffective (all the leaders have since come out as gay), and dangerous; and

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1 WHEREAS, The father of modern psychiatry, Robert L. Spitzer, whose work has been
2 used to support conversion therapy, recently came out as saying he made a grave mistake in
3 supporting this harmful practice; and
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5 WHEREAS, California Senate Bill 1172 (Lieu) would protect LGBTQQ youth from this
6 dangerous and ineffective treatment by banning the sexual orientation change efforts on
7 persons under 18; now, therefore, be it
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9 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Youth Commission strongly urges the Mayor and
10 Board of Supervisors to protect LGBTQQ youth by supporting SB1172, banning conversion
11 therapy for youth and be it further; and be it
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13 FINALLY RESOLVED, That, in the event that SB1172 does not pass statewide, the
14 San Francisco Youth Commission encourages the Board of Supervisors to craft a similar
15 ordinance banning so called conversion therapy in youth, and creating a disclaimer adults
16 must read and sign before seeking this harmful treatment.
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