

1 [Resolution Urging the Board of Supervisors to Support SB 1157 – Strengthening Family  
2 Connections]

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4 **Resolution urging the Board of Supervisors to Urge Support of SB 1157 (Mitchell) –**  
5 **Strengthening Family Connections in order to ensure families have access to in-person visits**  
6 **with loved ones incarcerated in county jails**

7 WHEREAS, legislation introduced by state Senator Holly Mitchell would preserve meaningful visitation  
8 rights for people in local correctional facilities, juvenile halls, juvenile homes, ranches, and camps by  
9 clarifying that their right to a minimum amount of visitation refers to in-person visits, which cannot be  
replaced with video visits; and

10 WHEREAS, this bill would also require that private detention facilities meet the same minimum  
standards as local facilities; and

11 WHEREAS, SB 1157 will help strengthen family connections by ensuring access to in-person visits  
12 between incarcerated and detained persons and their loved ones; and

13 WHEREAS, providing access to visitation improves public safety, reduces recidivism, and reduces  
14 negative impacts on loved ones, especially children whose loved ones are incarcerated or detained;  
and

15 WHEREAS, A 2015 Prison Policy Initiative report showed that 74% of county jails across the country  
16 that implemented video visitation ended up eliminating in-person visitation; and

17 WHEREAS, At least five California counties (Kings, Napa, San Bernardino, San Diego, and Solano)  
18 have eliminated in-person visitation in at least one of their jails, meaning families are only able to visit  
19 their loved ones through a computer screen, and two counties (Imperial and Placer) have severely  
restricted in-person visitation since adopting video visitation, and three counties (Orange, San Mateo,  
and Tulare) plan to do the same as a part of jail expansion or construction plans; and

20 WHEREAS, It is extremely costly to use video visitation services remotely from one’s home computer,  
21 about \$1/min on average, and many low-income families do not have access to computers or the  
internet; and

22 WHEREAS, 34% of families went into debt to pay for phone and visitation costs; and

23 WHEREAS, 53% all U.S. prisoners in 2007 were parents of one or more children under the age of 18;  
24 and

25 WHEREAS, according to the Center for Youth Wellness, incarceration is one of the most adverse of  
childhood experiences; and

1 WHEREAS, visitation is a mediating factor in the adverse effect of parental incarceration; and  
2 WHEREAS an estimated 16,196 San Francisco children had a parent in custody for some period of  
3 time in 2010 at San Francisco County Jails; and  
4 WHEREAS, 61% of San Francisco’s children of incarcerated parents want more contact with their  
5 parents; and  
6 WHEREAS, San Francisco has already taken a lead on this issue by maintaining in-person visitation  
7 at each county jail in the county in order to preserve family connections; and  
8 WHEREAS, there are now more people being detained at the county level for longer periods of time,  
9 up to five years, due to realignment following the passage of AB 109; and  
10 WHEREAS, the changes due to realignment are more cause to increase our efforts to support children  
11 in maintaining strong bonds with their parents during incarceration; and  
12 WHEREAS, improving services and supports for children with incarcerated parents has been among  
13 the San Francisco Youth Commission’s top priorities since 2013; now  
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12 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the San Francisco Youth Commission urges the Board of  
Supervisors to support the strengthening of family connections by issuing public support for SB 1157  
(Mitchell).