

RESOLUTION NO. .

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF SAN MATEO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

* * * * *

**RESOLUTION: A) RECOGNIZING THE NEED TO OPPOSE THE COERCION OF COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES TO FORCE ANY POLITICAL AGENDA UPON AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION; AND
B) CELEBRATING THE ENORMOUS CONTRIBUTIONS TO PEACE, SECURITY, AND PUBLIC WELFARE BY THOSE WHO EACH DAY STUDY WITHIN, TEACH, ADMINISTER, AND OTHERWISE SUPPORT THE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

RESOLVED, by the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Mateo, State of California, that

WHEREAS, the current Federal Administration's attacks on higher education continue and it is clear that they constitute a vigorous and well-organized assault on long-standing American values; and

WHEREAS, San Mateo County's economy and community vibrancy are closely linked to major universities in this region, including the University of California in San Francisco, the University of California at Berkeley, Stanford University, San Francisco State University, and the University of San Francisco; and

WHEREAS, San Mateo County's economy and vibrancy as a community are also closely linked to other regional public and private universities and community colleges; and

WHEREAS, new discoveries from this network of universities and colleges have given rise to globally-impactful advancements that have launched or

contributed greatly to entire industries, including, but not limited to, the fields of biotechnology, artificial intelligence, computers and their increasingly complex circuitry, modern finance via portfolio theory or other products of the fields of economics and finance, computerized animation, self-driving vehicles, aviation, modern rocketry and space exploration, disease prevention and cure through personalized medicine, and incalculable numbers of other products of this globally-competitive research and education system; and

WHEREAS, the federal attack on universities and colleges undermines job creation, innovation, the economy, and lifesaving discoveries by causing political considerations, rather than scientific merit, to drive decisions on whether to fund research projects; and

WHEREAS, ideologically-motivated political pressure has no legitimate role in university admissions, hiring, or employment nor in the development or the content of university and college curriculum; and

WHEREAS, innovation is fundamental to the American character, and thus research grants must be awarded on the basis of scientific and professional merit and funding withdrawn only for just cause under law and consistent with due process; and

WHEREAS, diversity of background and experience enriches the learning experience by revealing new horizons, and differing ideas cultivate new discoveries and peaceful relations among individuals with different viewpoints; and

WHEREAS, San Mateo County and the San Francisco Bay Area have, over decades, been home to global leaders in nearly all significant fields of human endeavor, including government, commercial enterprise, and academia; and

WHEREAS, these leaders were often immigrants, drawn by universities and colleges, who found, in San Mateo County and the Bay Area, an environment where human genius is celebrated and nurtured; and

WHEREAS, international students contribute mightily to our local and national innovation economies, which require the best global talent and San Mateo County has been immensely enriched, both materially and spiritually, by the contributions of foreign students studying at and graduating from universities and colleges in the area; and

WHEREAS, free speech and peaceful protest and privacy are to be respected, and diverse viewpoints must be permitted to be peacefully shared in the public spaces of colleges and universities; and

WHEREAS, accusations made against universities and colleges, followed abruptly by discontinued grants, requirements for curriculum changes or demands for settlement funds to enable the continued conduct of routine and lawful activities, when made without due process or basis in fact or law, are incompatible with the principle of equal justice under the law; and

WHEREAS, universities targeted with these demands include, among others, the University of California, Brown University, Columbia University, Cornell University, Dartmouth College, Duke University, Emory University, George Washington University, Harvard University, Johns Hopkins University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology,

New York University, Northwestern University, Princeton University, University of Arizona, University of Michigan, University of Minnesota, and the University of Pennsylvania, and the demands made of these universities are incompatible with the principles of equal justice under the law, notwithstanding any agreement to settle the allegations against them.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY DETERMINED AND ORDERED that the Board of Supervisors recognizes:

(A) the need to oppose the coercion of colleges and universities to force any political agenda upon an institution of higher education, and

(B) the enormous contributions to peace, security and public welfare by those who each day study within, teach, administer, and otherwise support the colleges and universities of the United States of America.

* * * * *