DATE: April 29, 1999

SUBJECT: Special Supporting Passage of the Hate Crimes Prevention Act Resolution No. 990429 - S4

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The San Francisco Community College District has long prohibited discrimination affecting employment and educational opportunities on many bases as described in established District policies. These bases include, but are not limited to, sexual orientation, gender, and disability. Additionally, the Board itself enacted a series of resolutions directing that resources be utilized for workshops to prevent sexual harassment and discriminatory behavior against persons in the District based on disability, race, gender, sexual orientation or homophobia.

Hate crime incidents in the United States are distressingly high. In 1997, over 8,000 hate crime incidents were reported. The animosity and hatred directed at persons with different sexual orientations are especially alarming, as evidenced by the recent murder of Matthew Shepard in Wyoming, as well as the selective defacing of the mural at the City College Student Union. Matthew Shepard was gay. The mural scene defaced depicted a lesbian couple kissing.

Current federal law permits federal prosecution of a hate crime only if the crime was motivated by bias based on religion, national origin, or race. The Hate Crimes Prevention Act (HCPA), HR 3081 and S 1529 would amend the law to include bias based on real or perceived sexual orientation, gender or disability. Such hate crimes could then be investigated and prosecuted by the federal government.
RECOMMENDATION:

RESOLVED: That the Board of Trustees of the San Francisco Community College hereby declares its support for the passage of the Hate Crimes Prevention Act which will add sexual orientation, gender and disability to the current categories of bias, thereby permitting federal investigation and prosecution of crimes motivated by such bias as Hate Crimes.

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED: That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the President of the United States, Senators and Members of the House of Representatives representing California, and other appropriate governmental leaders.

President Lawrence Wong, Originator
Trustee James Haskell Mayo II, Originator
Trustee Rodel Rodis, Originator

04/29/99 - S4 page 2