FILE NO. 010414

RESOLUTION NO. 222-0/

[Urging passage of SB987]

Urging the California legislature to pass Senate Bill 987 to amend the Dymally-Alatorre Bilingual Services Act and to budget sufficient funds to ensure that state and local agencies charged with implementing the provisions of the Dymally-Alatorre Bilingual Services Act have the financial resources to do so.

WHEREAS, the State of California, recognizing that "the effective maintenance and development of a free and democratic society depends on the right and ability of its citizens and residents to communicate with their government and the right and ability of their government to communicate with them," first enacted the Dymally-Alatorre Bilingual Services Act in 1973;

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Dymally-Alatorre Bilingual Services Act was to require government agencies to make their services accessible to individuals who do not speak English well; and,

WHEREAS, in the twenty-eight years of its existence, the Dymally-Alatorre Bilingual Services Act has proven ineffective because it lacks an enforcement mechanism and contains loopholes allowing government agencies to avoid implementing their language access responsibilities without any consequences; and,

WHEREAS, in November 1999, the State Bureau of Audits ("State Auditor") released a report examining the implementation of the Dymally-Alatorre Bilingual Services Act and found that

Supervisors Mark Leno, Gonzalez, Sandoval, Yee, Newsom

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only 2 of the 10 agencies reviewed were aware of their <u>responsibility to</u> translate materials, and only one agency actually translated materials as required by the Act; and,

WHEREAS, the State Auditor found poor implementation of the Dymally-Alatorre Bilingual Services Act by local governments; and,

WHEREAS, state Senator Martha Escutia has introduced a bill, Senate Bill 987, in the current legislative session, that will amend the Dymally-Alatorre Bilingual Services Act to rectify many of the deficiencies in the current law as it applies to state agencies; and,

WHEREAS, according to recent U.S. Census estimates, one out of every four San Franciscans cannot speak English well; and,

WHEREAS, limited English proficient residents of San Francisco will benefit greatly from an amended and effective Dymally-Alatorre Bilingual Services Act; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the California Legislature to pass Senate Bill 987 to amend the Dymally-Alatorre Bilingual Services Act to make it a more effective law; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the State of California to budget sufficient funds to ensure that state and local agencies charged with implementing the provisions of the Dymally-Alatorre Bilingual Services Act have the financial resources to do so.

Mark Leno

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



Tails

Resolution

File Number: 010414

Date Passed:

Resolution urging the California legislature to pass Senate Bill 987 to amend the Dymally-Alatorre Bilingual Services Act and to budget sufficient funds to ensure that state and local agencies charged with implementing the provisions of the Dymally-Alatorre Bilingual Services Act have the financial resources to do so.

March 12, 2001 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED

Ayes: 6 - Ammiano, Gonzalez, Leno, Maxwell, Newsom, Peskin Absent: 5 - Daly, Hall, McGoldrick, Sandoval, Yee

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I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on March 12, 2001 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

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Jean Lum Acting Clerk of the Board

Mayor Willie L. Brown Jr.

MAR 2 3 2001

Date Approved