39-R-7

A Resolution to Oppose the Tax Expenditure Limitation Proposal

Pat Sprinkle (for himself, Kate Christobek, Ryan Fournier, Nick Benson, Danny Frost, Nick Marconi, Jen Johns, Andy Schreiber, Matt Dodovich, Stephen Smith, and Brad Reed) introduced the following resolution which was referred to the Steering Committee.

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Whereas, the Undergraduate Student Government represents all undergraduate students, and

Whereas, the Undergraduate Student Government, in representing the best interests of our constituents, maintains a concern in rising tuition and associated educational costs as a result of state cutbacks, and

Whereas, the Citizens for Tax Reform are advocating for a proposal to amend the Ohio Constitution to institute a Tax and Expenditure Limitation (TEL) that would seek to cap public higher education spending, and

Whereas, Undergraduate Student Government believes that a constitutional amendment for a Tax Expenditure Limitation (TEL) that permanently and arbitrarily restricts state spending would severely restrict the state’s ability to invest in vital public services such as education and could potentially lead to an increase in tuition for all undergraduates, and

Whereas, the Undergraduate Student Government holds the responsibility of speaking on behalf of undergraduates, who do not want an increase in their tuition, and

Whereas, the Ohio State University Board of Trustees’ recent actions regarding the TEL amendment include passage of a full resolution opposing the amendment, and

Whereas, the Undergraduate Student Government is allotted 26 Senate seats on the University Senate, the governing body of the Ohio State University, and

Whereas, the University Senate will be considering a resolution on May 11th, 2006 to officially declare their opposition to the TEL amendment, and

Whereas, State colleges and universities consistently work to keep costs down and have already cut over $300 million in expenses, as detailed in the Ohio Board of Regents Results Through Productivity Report, and

Whereas, the amendment would directly affect the University’s ability to maintain the current student experience by limiting spending in areas such as University Housing,
campus dining, student financial aid, recreational sports, campus safety programs, and possibly limiting the current number of available course offerings, and

Whereas, the amendment would be detrimental to the efforts of the Ohio State University to recruit and retain the highest quality faculty and staff, especially in competition with out-of-state institutions that do not have to operate under such a stringent spending cap,

Therefore, Let it Be Resolved, that the Undergraduate Student Government, in passage of this resolution, so supports the Ohio State University Board of Trustees’ recent resolution opposing the TEL amendment, and

Therefore, Let it Further Be Resolved, that the Undergraduate Student Government, in passage of this resolution opposes the Tax Expenditure Limitation proposal.

Therefore, Let it Further Be Resolved, that the Undergraduate Student Government, in passage of this resolution, urges the 26 undergraduate members of the University Senate to vote in favor of University Senate Proposal SD 2005-32, a proposal to oppose the TEL amendment, and

Floor Vote: Yea: 29   Nay: 8   Present: 7

Ryan Fournier
President

Nick Benson
Speaker of the Senate