

A Resolution to Address Health Hazards and Unsafe Living Conditions in OSU Housing

Francesco Migliore (for himself Mykenna Roy, Aarman Chardey, Chris Cade, Oliver Griffith) introduced the following resolution to the Health and Safety Committee where it passed. Then, to the Steering Committee where it passed, and to the floor where it passed.

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Whereas the Undergraduate Student Government (USG) represents all undergraduate students at The Ohio State University and is committed to advocating for their health, safety, and overall well-being; and

Whereas numerous students residing in Lawrence Tower have reported and documented hazardous living conditions, including mushrooms growing from walls and significant black mold growth behind wallpaper, as evidenced by photographic documentation and firsthand accounts from residents^{1,2}; and

Whereas fungal growth, including mushrooms, presents a serious health risk, as exposure to certain species of mushrooms can lead to severe toxic reactions, including kidney and liver damage, and in some cases, even death³; and

Whereas exposure to black mold is a documented environmental hazard that has been associated with a range of adverse health outcomes, including respiratory issues, chronic sinus infections, neurological symptoms, immune system suppression, and mental health concerns⁴; and

Whereas Ohio State University has a responsibility to provide safe, sanitary, and conducive living environments for its students, who rely on the university's housing as an essential component of their educational experience; and

Whereas Lawrence Tower has a documented history of unresolved maintenance issues⁵, as reported in media sources highlighting its conversion from a hotel to student housing⁶ and its ongoing challenges in meeting basic safety and quality standards; and

Whereas the widespread student concerns regarding the unhealthy conditions in Lawrence Tower have been expressed repeatedly across social media platforms, including posts on Reddit

1: [mushroom growing out of wallpaper in lawrence tower : r/OSU](#)

2: [lawrence mold : r/OSU](#)

3: [Mushroom Toxicity - StatPearls - NCBI Bookshelf](#)

4: [Mold inhalation causes innate immune activation, neural, cognitive and emotional dysfunction - PMC](#)

5: [Lawrence Tower- Ohio State Freshman 2024 | Facebook](#)

6: [Holiday Inn to be sold, converted into 480-bed OSU dormitory](#)

and discussions within a dedicated Ohio State University student Facebook group, reflecting a broader discontent and anxiety among the student body about their health and safety; and

Whereas the detrimental impact of these conditions on students' physical and mental health is likely to impede their academic success and personal development, as students cannot be expected to thrive in an environment where they are exposed to potential health hazards; and

Therefore, Let it Be Resolved that the Undergraduate Student Government formally condemns the use of Lawrence Tower as a housing facility for students due to the unacceptable health risks associated with its current state; and

Let it Further Be Resolved that the Undergraduate Student Government calls upon The Ohio State University administration to take immediate action to relocate students currently residing in Lawrence Tower to alternative, safe accommodations, and to cease the use of Lawrence Tower as a housing option until a thorough remediation process has been conducted to eliminate the mold, fungal growth, and other safety hazards; and

Let it Further Be Resolved that the Undergraduate Student Government urges The Ohio State University to establish a proactive maintenance and inspection protocol to ensure that all campus housing facilities, including Lawrence Tower, are regularly assessed and maintained to prevent future occurrences of such severe health and safety violations; and

Let it Further Be Resolved that the Undergraduate Student Government requests transparency from The Ohio State University regarding the specific steps being taken to address this issue, including regular updates to students and their families on progress and anticipated timelines for remediation.

Floor Vote: Aye: 28 Nay: 0 Abstain: 0 Present: 28

Bobby McAlpine
President

George Bernard
Speaker of the 57th General Assembly

Date Adopted: 11/13/2024