

A Resolution to Support the Ohio Campus Free Speech Act and Free Speech on Campus

Nick Davis (for himself) introduced the following legislation to the Steering Committee, where it passed.

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Whereas the Undergraduate Student Government represents all undergraduate students at The Ohio State University, and

Whereas the first amendment of the Constitution of the United States guarantees the right to freedom of speech, and

Whereas State Representatives Wesley Goodman and Andrew Brenner introduced House Bill 363¹, the “Campus Free Speech Act,” to the Ohio General Assembly, and

Whereas HB 363 aims to ensure policies and conduct of Ohio’s public colleges and universities be fully consistent with the First Amendment of the United States Constitution, and

Whereas the bill has 31 total co-sponsors in the Ohio House of Representatives, for a total of exactly one-third of the House of Representatives sponsoring or co-sponsoring this bill, and

Whereas the bill requires universities to develop a free speech policy consistent with the bill and to educate students, faculty, and administrators on said policy, and

Whereas the bill prohibits universities and administrators from taking action that limits or chills the expression of any member of the campus community or invited guests based on the content of expression, and

Whereas the bill eliminates “free speech zones” by declaring generally accessible areas traditional public forums for expression and prohibits universities from limiting the space for expression within those areas, and

Whereas the bill prevents the “heckler’s veto” by prohibiting universities from disinventing speakers based on the potential reaction, opposition, offense, or irritation taken to that speaker’s expression, and

¹ <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-363>

40 **Whereas** the bill makes student activity fees optional and requires universities to distribute these
41 fees in a manner that is neutral to each organization’s viewpoints and/or expression, and
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43 **Whereas** the bill allows those aggrieved by violations of the act to bring a cause of action
44 against the state institution and/or other responsible parties, and
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46 **Whereas** a free and open exchange of speech and ideas is critical to maximizing educational
47 experiences and preparing students to be engaging citizens, and
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49 **Whereas** the Undergraduate Student Government at The Ohio State University supports free
50 speech;
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52 **Therefore, Let it Be Resolved** that the Undergraduate Student Government supports Ohio
53 House Bill 363 and urges the Ohio General Assembly to pass this legislation, and
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55 **Let it Further Be Resolved** that we call on the university administration to develop a free
56 speech policy, as required by this legislation, and properly educate students, faculty, and
57 administrators on the policy, and
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59 **Let it Further Be Resolved** that we call on the university to promote a diverse and inclusive
60 campus culture where all ideas can be shared openly and freely, and
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62 **Let it Further be Resolved** that a copy of this resolution will be distributed to all 99 State
63 Representatives and 33 State Senators following its passage through the USG General Assembly.
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69 Floor Vote: Tabled indefinitely (39-2-1)
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74 _____
75 Andrew Jackson
76 President
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74 _____
75 Sophie Chang
76 Vice President
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78 Tabled indefinitely.
79 Date Adopted: Will not be adopted.

Date Terminated: _____