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48-R-19

A Resolution to Permit the Use of Pepper Spray in Self-Defense in the Code of Student Conduct

Braden Poe (for himself, Varsha Challapally, Caroline Gonzalez, and Mario Belfiglio) introduced the following resolution to steering where it passed.

* * *

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

Whereas pepper spray is as a non-lethal form of self-defense with the active ingredient oleoresin capsicum (OC) that temporarily disables perpetrators,¹ and

Whereas no university policy in The Ohio State University's Code of Student Conduct allows the possession of pepper spray or permits students to use pepper spray in self-defense situations,² and

Whereas pepper spray can therefore be deemed a dangerous weapon, device, and substance by The Ohio State University, leaving its use in self-defense scenarios subject to disciplinary action by the university, and

Whereas Central Michigan University Student Government Association voted to allow the use of pepper spray in self-defense scenarios in March of 2013,³ and

Whereas 72 Public Safety Notices have been issued involving robbery, assault, and sexual assault cases have occurred in The Ohio State University's academic area and residence halls since January 1, 2004, where pepper spray is currently unable to be used without ramifications,⁴ and

Whereas numerous other incidents occur on campus, reported on the daily crime log, that do not call for a Public Safety Notice by university policy, and

Whereas a study has shown pepper spray to be an effective, non-lethal method of stopping crime perpetrators and allows victims adequate time to escape when it is able to be used;⁵

Therefore Let it Be Resolved that The Ohio State University's Code of Student Conduct should be modified to permit the use of pepper spray in self-defense scenarios to eliminate liability for the victim of assault while also creating a safer on-campus environment, and

¹ <http://www.safetied.org/10factsyoushouldknowaboutmace.html#.VgXpafIViko>

² <http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/csc/>

³ <https://www.pepperspraycenter.com/newblog/pepper-spray-allowed-michigan-law/>

⁴ <http://www.ps.ohio-state.edu/police/psn/>

⁵ <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/195739.pdf>

43 **Let it Further Be Resolved** that the Undergraduate Student Government recognizes the work of
44 Deputy Director of Health and Safety, Sunder Sai, in researching and drafting this policy.
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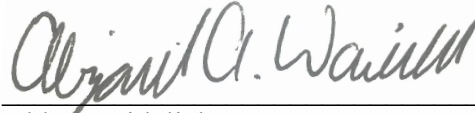
Floor Vote: Aye: 40 Nay: 0 Present: 40

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57 Abby Grossman
58 President

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57 Abby Waidelich
58 Vice President

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65 Date Adopted: November 18, 2015

Date Terminated: _____