

**A Resolution to Oppose the Fair and Safe Campus Acts**

Emmy Wydman (for herself, Varsha Challapally, Braden Poe, Brandon Weisman, and Levi Cramer) 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** The Safe Campus Act is an act that has been introduced to the United States Congress that more than 220 victims advocacy groups have formally opposed,<sup>1</sup> and

**Whereas** the Fair and Safe Campus Acts are considered extremely detrimental to survivors of sexual assault, and

**Whereas** one in every five women and one in every sixteen men in college is sexually assaulted,<sup>2</sup> and

**Whereas** this body of student leaders represents many survivors of sexual assault and wants them to feel safe, supported, and able to not only complete their degree but to thrive in their education at our institution, and

**Whereas** The Fair and Safe Campus Acts will make rape harder to prove on college campuses by allowing the institution to apply any standard of proof they deem appropriate during adjudication, meaning the current standard of the “preponderance of evidence”<sup>3</sup> can be replaced with a more stringent “beyond a reasonable doubt”<sup>4</sup> standard that would make rape harder to prove, and

**Whereas** only 2% of rape cases held to this standard in the criminal justice system result in a conviction,<sup>3</sup> and

**Whereas** the rate of false reports for sexual violence is equal to that of other crimes, at somewhere between 2-8%,<sup>4</sup> and

**Whereas** the Acts perpetuate the dangerous myth that many reports of sexual violence are false by making sexual violence harder and more cumbersome to prove on campus, but not requiring

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<sup>1</sup> Kingkade, Tyler. "220 Sexual Assault Victims' Groups Warn Against Safe Campus Act." *The Huffington Post*. N.p., 2 Nov. 2015. Web.

<sup>2</sup> "Facts about Sexual Violence." *PsycEXTRA Dataset (2007)*: n. pag. *National Sexual Violence Resource Center*. Web. 6 Dec. 2015.

<sup>3</sup> Lonsway, Kimberly A., and Joanne Archambault. "The 'Justice Gap' for Sexual Assault Cases: Future Directions for Research and Reform." *Violence Against Women*, 18, no. 2, February 2012.

<sup>4</sup> "Myths about False Accusation." *MAAN RSS*. N.p., n.d. Web. 06 Dec. 2015.

40 the same of other crimes (e.g. plagiarism, petty theft, fistfights, or murder—all of which  
41 campuses would adjudicate alongside the criminal justice system, if reported to the police), and  
42 **Whereas** suggesting that sexual assault is the only crime currently too easy to prove implies that,  
43 compared to other crimes, false reports—and convictions—of this type are unusually common;  
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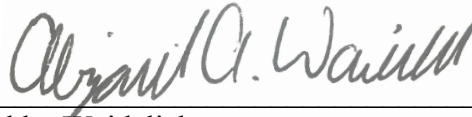
45 **Therefore Let it Be Resolved** that the Undergraduate Student Government of The Ohio State  
46 University officially opposes the Fair Campus Act, H.R. 3408 and the Safe Campus Act, H.R.  
47 3403, and  
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49 **Let it Further Be Resolved** that The Ohio State Undergraduate Student Government asks its  
50 institutional leadership to publicly oppose the legislation.  
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53 Floor Vote: Aye: 39 Nay: 2 Abstain: 2  
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64 Abby Grossman  
65 President  
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70 Abby Waidelich  
71 Vice President  
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Date Adopted: December 9, 2015

Date Terminated: \_\_\_\_\_