February 28th, 2021

Dear Ohio State University Administration:

On behalf of the Undergraduate Black Law Student Association here at the Ohio State University, I am writing this letter in support of the Undergraduate Student Government’s proposal to rename Bricker Hall.

Currently, Black students at the Ohio State University make up 5.68% of the total number of students. Within that small percentage, only a handful want to pursue a career in the legal field. The Undergraduate Black Law Student Association caters to those students’ needs by producing programs and events geared towards preparation for law school and the legal profession. We advocate for diversity and inclusion here at the Ohio State University and hope to continue to do so in our future positions as we know there once was a time when Black people were prohibited from pursuing legal careers. This is why we cannot be silent about the contradiction that comes from this school about supporting diversity and inclusion while keeping Bricker’s legacy relevant with the naming of Bricker Hall.

As it currently stands, 190 N Oval Mall, #203 is named after John W. Bricker. Bricker was many things as a person but, what stands out the most is that he was a segregationist. During his time as Attorney General, Bricker barred Doris Weaver, a Black woman enrolled at Ohio State, from living in campus housing required by her major. He defended the school’s policy of “separate but equal” facilities, leaving Ms. Weaver in a disadvantaged state compared to her white classmates. As an Ohio Senator, Bricker introduced a bill to stop executive agencies from passing legislation to prohibit segregation. Additionally, Bricker’s proposal of the Bricker Amendment is more evidence of his problematic views. The amendment was intended to make it difficult for the United States Senate and American Bar Association to adopt an amendment to prohibit segregation. These facts are deeply disturbing as they display who Bricker was as a person. Thus, it is quite insulting for this university to continue to honor his “legacy” since it is not much more than perpetuating racism.

For these reasons, it is imperative that the administration listens to the students. If Ohio State truly cares about all of its students, there should be no hesitation to rename Bricker Hall. With many administrative offices, including the President’s office, located in a building named after a segregationist, it is no wonder why Black students across this campus feel disrespected and neglected by the school’s leaders. Honoring a man who would not want to see Black students on this campus today is hurtful to all the Black students enrolled, all of whom contribute something great to this school.

Therefore, the Undergraduate Black Law Student Association supports the Undergraduate Student Government’s proposal to rename Bricker Hall.

Sincerely,

Undergraduate Black Law Student Association Executive Board