

A Resolution to Oppose the Ban on Window Art in Campus Residence Halls

Maria Humayun (for herself, Chris Weller, Benjamin Kanas, Nick Davis, Grant Tyson, Tommy Bowles, and Anthony Long) introduced the following legislation to the Steering Committee, where it passed.

* * *

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

Whereas The Ohio State University operates University Housing for undergraduate students, and

Whereas The Ohio State University recently revised the Residential Living Handbook to include section 3.4 i, which states “ Windows must remain clear from obstruction and university window coverings need to be visible from the outside. Posting, hanging or otherwise displaying signage, lighting or other materials in or around the residence hall windows or on university window coverings is not permitted,”¹ and

Whereas window art allows Ohio State Students to express their creativity and spirit, and

Whereas the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States of America states “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances,”² and

Whereas Penn State University allows window art as long as there is fifty percent transparency maintained, the decorations are removable, decorations do not present a safety hazard,³ and

¹ The Ohio State University Residential Living Handbook
(<https://housing.osu.edu/posts/documents/2017-2018-columbus-handbook.pdf>)

² The Bill of Rights of the United States of America
(<https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/bill-of-rights-transcript>)

³ Penn State University “Terms, Conditions, and Regulations for 2017-2018 Academic Year” Regulations, 5, Windows.
(<http://housing.psu.edu/terms-conditions-and-regulations-2017-2018-academic-year#deco%20and%20displays>)

33 **Whereas** Indiana University allows window art as long as there is twenty-five percent
34 transparency;⁴

35
36 **Therefore, Let it Be Resolved** that the Undergraduate Student Government supports the
37 revision of section 3.4 i of the Residential Living Handbook regarding window art, and

38
39 **Let it Further Be Resolved** that the USG supports a policy change to twenty-five percent
40 transparency, and

41
42 **Let it Further Be Resolved** that the USG supports a policy change that mandates that all
43 window art is subject to the Student Code of Conduct,⁵ and

44
45 **Let it Further Be Resolved** that the USG supports the First Amendment Right to freedom of
46 speech, and

47
48 **Let it Further Be Resolved** that the USG supports the use of materials that do not damage the
49 window and if so the damages will be billed to the students, and

50
51 **Let it Further Be Resolved** that the USG supports that enforcement is at the discretion of the
52 Hall Directors, and

53
54 **Let it Further Be Resolved** that sponsors of said resolution will meet with the Student Life
55 Director of Residence Life to interpret alongside the Student Code of Conduct what is and is not
56 hate/unsafe speech.

57

Floor Vote: Passed.

58

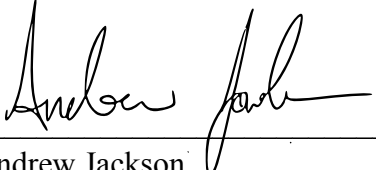
59

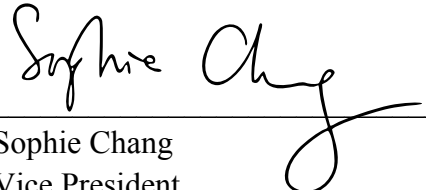
60

61

62

63


64 Andrew Jackson
65 President


64 Sophie Chang
65 Vice President

66

67

68

Date Adopted: September 6, 2017

Date Terminated: _____

⁴ Indiana University “Decorations, Displays, and Hazardous Substances”
(<http://www.rps.indiana.edu/atozguide.cfm#DecorationsDisplaysHazardousSubstances>)

⁵ The Ohio State University Student Code of Conduct
(<https://trustees.osu.edu/index.php?q=rules/code-of-student-conduct/>)