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S.R 2016-2017.18

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A Resolution -

To be known as "An affirmation of Student Government's dedication to protecting the First Amendment," which will reiterate the organization's responsibility to protect the rights this encompasses from any university or administrative entity that seeks to undermine them.

- 1 **WHEREAS:** The Student Government at Texas State University
- 2 serves as the official voice of the student body;
- 3 and
- 4 **WHEREAS:** With that responsibility comes the obligation to
- 5 protect and defend the Bill of Rights, should
- 6 they be threatened by any administrative body;
- 7 and

8 **WHEREAS:** Growing concerns surrounding the censorship and
9 prior restraint of speech require the Student
10 Government to intervene and correct policies and
11 procedures that impede on the First Amendment;
12 and

13 **WHEREAS:** As a public university, Texas State University is
14 fully bound by the First Amendment and must
15 uphold its students and faculty members free
16 speech rights; and

17 **WHEREAS:** Recent events on college campuses across the
18 nation require preemptive action to ensure the
19 integrity of our university is not compromised by
20 stifling freedom of speech; and

21 **WHEREAS:** The First Amendment guarantees our rights to free
22 speech; this right should not only be protected,
23 but highly revered; and

24 **WHEREAS:** These rights are guaranteed by a number of
25 democratic legal systems, including but not
26 limited to the United States Bill of Rights, the
27 Texas Bill of Rights, under Article I, and other
28 modern and democratic legal systems, including
29 the **European Convention on Human Rights** and the Canadian
30 Charter of Rights and Freedoms, and international
31 law, including articles 20 and 23 of the **Universal**

32 Declaration of Human Rights, and Conventions 87 and 98
33 of the International Labour Organization; and

34 **WHEREAS:** Freedom of speech extends to the right of the
35 individual to express his or her views without
36 the threat of interference or reprimand from any
37 administrative or governing authority; and

38 **WHEREAS:** The right to assembly extends to the collective
39 group of individuals that wish to peacefully
40 express, promote or defend their ideas in any
41 manner they see fit. Therefore,

42 **BE IT RESOLVED:** That the Senate address and correct
43 policies and procedures that infringe
44 on the first amendment; and

45 **BE IT RESOLVED:** That the Senate take measures to ensure
46 no Administrative or University entity
47 be allowed to prohibit any speaker or
48 group from speaking on campus; and

49 **BE IT RESOLVED:** That the Senate take measures necessary
50 to hold faculty and administration
51 accountable should they act against the
52 best interest of the student body,
53 including but not limited to notifying
54 students when these actions take place,
55 and recommending the expulsion of

56 individuals that violate or stifle
57 freedom of speech; and
58 **BE IT RESOLVD:** That upon passage of this resolution,
59 the Student Government issue a
60 statement reaffirming our resolve to
61 protect the First Amendment; and
62 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That upon passage, this piece of
63 legislation be forwarded to the
64 Student Body President Andrew
65 Homann for further action.