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 serves as the official voice of the student body; and

2 WHEREAS: With that responsibility comes the obligation to protect and defend the Bill of Rights, should they be threatened by any administrative body; and
WHEREAS: Growing concerns surrounding the censorship and prior restraint of speech require the Student Government to intervene and correct policies and procedures that impede on the First Amendment; and

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

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

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

WHEREAS: These rights are guaranteed by a number of democratic legal systems, including but not limited to the United States Bill of Rights, the Texas Bill of Rights, under Article I, and other modern and democratic legal systems, including the European Convention on Human Rights and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, and international law, including articles 20 and 23 of the Universal
Declaration of Human Rights, and Conventions 87 and 98 of the International Labour Organization; and

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

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

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

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

BE IT RESOLVED: That the Senate take measures necessary to hold faculty and administration accountable should they act against the best interest of the student body, including but not limited to notifying students when these actions take place, and recommending the expulsion of
individuals that violate or stifle freedom of speech; and

BE IT RESOLVED: That upon passage of this resolution, the Student Government issue a statement reaffirming our resolve to protect the First Amendment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That upon passage, this piece of legislation be forwarded to the Student Body President Andrew Homann for further action.