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S.R. 12 2018-2019

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A Resolution-

A resolution to be entitled "Gender-Based Housing Reform Resolution," relating to replacing Texas State's current assigned-sex-at-birth based housing with a house sorting system that would better protect and serve transgender and non-binary students in allowing them to house with students of their preferred gender or Allies-trained students.

WHEREAS: Our current housing assignment has a limited amount of gender identities for students who choose to live on campus. The lack of options leaves transgender and nonbinary students in an uncomfortable, unlivable, and sometimes hostile housing situation; and

WHEREAS: There are a significant number of students that, due to their gender identities, have been barred from the utilities that they pay for in their housing expenses. (e.g. using bathrooms that align with their gender, or remaining in a room with someone who is hostile toward one's gender); and

WHEREAS: Many transgender and non-binary students may have to live in fear of their roommates and floormates while choosing to live on campus, or others in their residence hall. Living in fear has the following complications:

- i. Mental health is affected because the individual does not feel like their existence is acknowledged and accepted,
- ii. Physical health is affected because the individual might feel threatened or be threatened by their roommate or others in the residence hall, and
- iii. Learning is affected because the individual is focused on maintaining personal safety and identity, causing distraction and discomfort among other major negative impacts, rather than focusing on their education, the main reason that they are attending the university; and

WHEREAS: Texas State University's Office of Student Diversity and Inclusion webpage reads: "Since 2000, Texas State has created and established programs to promote awareness about sexual and gender identities through education and training. Our belief is that LGBTQIA+ persons excel as members of Texas State when their full identities are included and affirmed.

Information on this page is provided with the intention of promoting visible support, increasing safe spaces...;" and

WHEREAS: With the creation of a Queer LLC, Expanding the options for housing to include an individual's preferred gender, and providing ally housing options alongside training for those who wish to take on that responsibility; we as a university can unilaterally create the most LGTBQIA+ safe campus in the state. While we value the safety and well-being of all students of this university, transgender and non-binary students are faced with distinct issues that must be addressed in a unique manner that caters to their specific needs. These actions will legitimize their needs and provide the safe spaces that Texas State claims to have a dedication to providing; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED: The Student Government of Texas State University acts upon this legislation with the intent to:

- i. Create a committee to work with the Department of Housing and Residential Life (DHRL).
 - i. The committee make-up and purpose will be defined by a bill passed by the Senate.
 - ii. In passing this resolution, the Senate acknowledges that they have an obligation to create and pass this bill during the same session as the passage of this resolution.

- iii. If this resolution fails, the Senate may still construct a committee to work with DHRL, with the committee composition and purpose defined by the bill.
- ii. Create a Queer Living Learning Community.
 - i. The creation of the Queer Living Learning Community would pair transgender and non-binary students with fellow students of complementary or preferred genders.
- iii. Expand the gender identity options that students can register as when signing up for on-campus housing.
 - i. Currently, the only genders that students can register as when completing an application to live on-campus are "Male" and "Female". Because there are many more gender identities than this, the Department of Housing and Residential Life would expand the scope of this category to include such identities as "Transgender Male," "Transgender Female" and "Non-binary" among others.
 - ii. In addition to having more identities, DHRL would include an option that allows students to insert their custom gender identity if they do not see it as an option in the checklist.
 - iii. In the case that a student inserts a custom gender identity, they would then list the gender

identity with whom they would feel most comfortable residing.

iv. Further details of this policy should be outlined and published by collaboration of the DHRL and the Senate committee.

iv. Provide ally housing options.

i. This would allow for any student of the LGBTQIA+ community to have a roommate who is willing to go through Ally/Allies training (expand in section E).

v. Provide Ally training during Bobcat Preview to those who opted to be residential allies.

i. During Bobcat Preview all students who wish to become a Housing Ally will be expected to attend a special training session on how to handle the situations and difficulties that may come up when residing with a student of the LGBTQIA+ community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: This legislation be forwarded to the Student Body President for further action.