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**A Bill-**

**A bill to be entitled – “Establishment of the Subcommittee for Student Labor Relations and Representation” creating a subcommittee on student labor relations to support and represent the interests of student workers.**

**WHEREAS:** Student workers form the backbone of the University’s departments and offices; every department uses student labor in one form or another and student workers often find themselves doing the work that faculty and staff are unwilling to do; and

**WHEREAS:** There are currently few research articles available regarding the academic performance of Student Employees indicating this situation as being overlooked and disregarded; and

**WHEREAS:** Even at its best possible scenario, student worker wages are not livable wages; and

**WHEREAS:** Student workers currently work in isolation as there is little to no inter-departmental communication, outside of the co-workers within their department student workers have no ability to seek out other workers or to air their grievances; student workers cannot collectively bargain for better pay, better working conditions, or more opportunities for advancement; they cannot organize or seek solidarity with other student workers; and

**WHEREAS:** Many student workers feel unable to address mistreatment by their bosses for fear of reprisal, as there is not an adequate system in place for student workers to complain about their supervisors; and

**WHEREAS:** For many student workers this is their first real job and because of this are unaware of their rights as a worker, leading to their bosses being able to exploit them; and

**WHEREAS:** The staff council already works as a democratic voice for staff at Texas State, their website states,

“Texas State Staff Council is a collective voice for Administrative, Professional, Technical/Paraprofessional, Secretarial/Clerical, Skilled and Service staff on campus. We support a variety of activities and initiatives to improve the quality of life and effectiveness of the university’s dedicated and valuable staff.

“As we are YOUR voice on campus, let us know if you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions to improve our community. Every question and issue is important to us and we are dedicated to ensuring that you enjoy a happy and successful Texas State career from start to finish;” and

**WHEREAS:** This committee would serve the same purpose for student workers without creating a new legislative body; and

**WHEREAS:** The Student Government stands as the primary way in which students can democratically influence their life during education, but democracy in politics is not complete without democracy in the workplace, this bill aims to allow students a way of actively influencing their workplace on campus; and

**WHEREAS:** A student worker will be defined as any student that is currently attending Texas State University and is working at a Texas State University facility, either for regular wages or for work study; and

**WHEREAS:** This Chapter is authorized pursuant to Article 3, §10 (b) of the Student Government Constitution, which states “Through a bill, the Senate shall also have the power to establish, disband and regulate Senate committees;” and therefore

**BE IT ENACTED:** In accordance with the Student Government Code Title VI Chapter 200 Article V Section 16, the chairperson of the Student Services Committee establish a sub-committee with the purpose, membership, and scope to be defined below;

**§1 AUTHORIZATION.** This bill is authorized by Article III Section 10(b) of the Student Government Constitution and Student Government Code Title IV Chapter 200 Article V.

**§2 PURPOSE.** The Student Labor Relations Subcommittee will work in tandem with student workers to provide resources and news to student workers and provide an open forum for student workers to bring their thoughts, concerns, suggestions, or grievances to student government and the Texas State University Administration.

1. The subcommittee will:
   * 1. Be responsible for, in cooperation with the relevant University Administration, establishing and maintaining a Student Labor Relations Subcommittee Learning Module to be a required component of all student worker training, containing information about the following:
        1. Student workers’ rights
        2. How to report abuse by their employers
        3. How to contact the Committee
        4. What the Student Labor Relations Subcommittee does
        5. How to join the Student Labor Relations Subcommittee email list.
        6. Provide news and resources relating to student workers’ needs
     2. Act as an avenue to connect student workers to each other
     3. Act as an advocate for student worker issues in the Student Government Senate and House through legislation
     4. Act as an advocate for student worker issues in University Committees and to University Administrators
     5. Call in third-party labor organizations when student worker grievances become beyond what student government members may reasonably administrate

**§3 ORGANIZATION.**

1. The Co-Chairs. In accordance with the Student Government Code Title VI, Chapter 200, Article V, Section 8, the co-chairs of the subcommittee will be nominated by the chairperson of the Senate with a two-thirds approval of the Senate. The subcommittee co-chairs must be an authorized member of the Senate, as stated in the Student Government Constitution, Article III, Section 14.
   * 1. At least one co-chair must be a student worker. If no member of student government is a student worker, the co-chair position will remain vacant until a qualified senator may be appointed.
2. The Membership. Subcommittee members will be made of students from the Senate and/or House of Representatives, and the student body. The subcommittee will be responsible for building a task force of student workers, to be entitled the “Student Workers’ Council”.
   * 1. If there is a member of the House of Representatives wishing to serve on the committee, they must first be confirmed to that position by the House of Representatives.
     2. Members of the student body who are non-members of the Senate must be approved by the chairperson of the Senate.
     3. The Student Workers’ Council will be tasked with reviewing and suggesting legislation that affects student workers.
3. Voting. In approving this piece of legislation, there will be a temporary suspension of Student Government Code Title VI Chapter 200 Article V Section 16c which reads “Senate subcommittee non-senate members shall not have an official vote on the subcommittee” so that all members of the subcommittee will have an official vote on matters discussed within subcommittee.

**§4 TERMINATION.** This subcommittee will only be terminated upon determination of a two-thirds majority vote of the subcommittee itself.

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