

# B.R.2016.04

CALL FOR SUPPORT OF HB 218 HATE CRIME LEGISLATION IN PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE

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## STUDENT GOVERNMENT BOARD UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH

AUTHORED BY: Community and Governmental Relations Chairman Nicholas Fisher and Board  
Member Arlind Karpuzi  
CO-AUTHORED BY: President Natalie Dall  
CO-SPONSORED BY: University of Pittsburgh Rainbow Alliance

[18 OCTOBER 2016]

Chairman Fisher introduced the following resolution; which was read for the first time.

[25 OCTOBER 2016]

Read the second time and voted on.

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## A RESOLUTION

CALL FOR SUPPORT OF HB 218, HATE CRIME LEGISLATION IN PENNSYLVANIA  
LEGISLATURE

- 1 WHEREAS, time and time again LGBTQIA+ Americans face attacks due to  
2 their sexual orientation or gender identity;
- 3 WHEREAS, in a 2015 hate crimes report released by the FBI, 18.6% of hate  
4 crimes reported under the Shepard/Byrd Act were due to sexual  
5 orientation, with gender identity accounting for an additional  
6 1.8%<sup>1</sup>;
- 7 WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court in 2008 struck down a 2002  
8 law that established hate crimes as a criminal offense in the  
9 Commonwealth, due to a technicality where legislators  
10 shadowed the main purpose of the legislation by including

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<sup>1</sup> FBI Annual Hate Crimes Statistics Report [<http://bit.ly/2cLk4Ar>]

11 language related to agricultural terrorism, therefore making it  
12 unconstitutional<sup>2</sup>;

13 WHEREAS, this past summer 49 individuals were massacred with 53 more  
14 injured in an Florida LGBTQIA+ night club during the largest  
15 mass shooting in U.S. history<sup>3</sup>

16 WHEREAS, LGBTQIA+ members of the Undergraduate Community  
17 deserve the same basic rights and quality of life as the rest of  
18 their peers;

19 WHEREAS, in the interest of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness,  
20 Governor Tom Wolf and all members of the Pennsylvania  
21 General Assembly, regardless of party affiliation, have a  
22 responsibility to protect the rights and lives of LGBTQIA+  
23 Individuals within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; *now,*  
24 *therefore, be it*

25 RESOLVED, on this 25th day of October in the year 2016, the University of  
26 Pittsburgh Student Government Board calls for support of HB  
27 218; *and be it further*

28 RESOLVED, that the University of Pittsburgh Student Government Board  
29 advocates for the equal rights of all individuals for the  
30 betterment of the Undergraduate Community, University, and  
31 the Commonwealth; *and be it further*

32 RESOLVED, that the University of Pittsburgh Student Government Board  
33 will send a letter urging the passage of HB 218 to key members  
34 of the Pennsylvania legislature; *and be it finally*

35 RESOLVED, this resolution shall be effective immediately upon adoption  
36 and shall reflect the official position of the University of  
37 Pittsburgh Student Government Board.

38 ADOPTED: this 25<sup>th</sup> day of October 2016 by a vote of 9 for, 0 against, and  
39 0 abstentions.

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Natalie Dall, President  
University of Pittsburgh Student Government Board

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<sup>2</sup> Pennsylvania Supreme Court Rules that Homosexual 'Hate Crimes'  
Law Violates Pennsylvania Constitution [<http://bit.ly/2djBpnu>]

<sup>3</sup> Orlando Shooting [<http://cnn.it/1PTOyD1>]