B.R.2016.04

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

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.

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 their sexual orientation or gender identity;
2 WHEREAS, in a 2015 hate crimes report released by the FBI, 18.6% of hate crimes reported under the Shepard/Byrd Act were due to sexual orientation, with gender identity accounting for an additional 1.8%\(^1\);
3 WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court in 2008 struck down a 2002 law that established hate crimes as a criminal offense in the Commonwealth, due to a technicality where legislators shadowed the main purpose of the legislation by including

\(^1\) FBI Annual Hate Crimes Statistics Report [http://bit.ly/2cLk4Ar]
language related to agricultural terrorism, therefore making it unconstitutional;

WHEREAS, this past summer 49 individuals were massacred with 53 more injured in an Florida LGBTQIA+ night club during the largest mass shooting in U.S. history;

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

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

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

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

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

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

ADOPTED: this 25th day of October 2016 by a vote of 9 for, 0 against, and 0 abstentions.

Natalie Dall, President
University of Pittsburgh Student Government Board

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