

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
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%¹;
- 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

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

11 language related to agricultural terrorism, therefore making it
12 unconstitutional²;

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. history³

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 25th day of October 2016 by a vote of 9 for, 0 against, and
39 0 abstentions.

Natalie Dall, President
University of Pittsburgh Student Government Board

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

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