B.R. 2017.04

URGING THE PASSAGE OF PENNSYLVANIA SENATE BILL 196 & NAMING THE BILL “ALINA’S LAW”

STUDENT GOVERNMENT BOARD
UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH

AUTHORED BY: President Max Kneis and Chief of Staff Derek Arnold
CO-SPONSORED BY: Board Members Ciara Barry, Ian Callahan, Ami Fall, Maddie Guido, Zuri Kent-Smith, Nihita Manem, Krish Patel, Alex Spenceley

31 OCTOBER 2017
President Kneis introduced the following resolution; which was read for the first time.

7 NOVEMBER 2017
Read the second time and voted on.

A RESOLUTION
URGING THE PASSAGE OF PA SENATE BILL 196

1 WHEREAS, the University of Pittsburgh wishes to promote an environment where all students and individuals may live free of harm and always feel safe;

2 WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania Senate introduced Bill 196 in January of 2017, with the intent of giving the judiciary the authority to order a GPS monitoring device be placed on individuals who have a protection from abuse (PFA) filed against them;

3 WHEREAS, Alina Sheykhet’s life was cut tragically short, with the primary suspect having a PFA filed against him by Alina, demonstrating need to revamp PFA laws to protect survivors and victims of domestic violence;

4 WHEREAS, Renaming SB 196 to Alina’s Law will honor her life and ensure her memory continues in perpetuity;
WHEREAS, the survivors and victims of all forms of domestic and relationship violence deserve the fullest protection under the law;

WHEREAS, Current practices around PFAs in Pennsylvania are not strong enough to adequately protect survivors and victims, and law enforcement cannot arrest offenders who violate a PFA without a warrant; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, on this 7th day of November in the year 2017, the University of Pittsburgh Student Government Board calls upon the Pennsylvania State Senate to rename Senate bill 196 Alina’s Law and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania review current practices related to protections from abuse orders, implementing any and all changes deemed necessary to better protect individuals who seek protection; and be it further

RESOLVED, The Commonwealth make strengthening laws related to domestic and relationship violence a priority in the current legislative session, in order to protect survivors and victims from suffering preventable tragedies; and be it further

RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution will be sent to all members of the Pennsylvania Senate co-sponsoring SB 196 and those members of the legislature representing the University of Pittsburgh; 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 7th day of November 2017 by a vote of 8 for, 0 against, and 0 abstentions.

Max Kneis, President
University of Pittsburgh Student Government Board