**Associated Student Government**

*University of Arkansas*

*ASG Senate Bill No. 14*

Author(s): Senator Tara Barsotti, Senator Nabil Bhimani

Sponsor(s): Senator Emily Daniels, Senator Warrington Sebree

**The Spreading the Health Bill**

Whereas, Although STIs (Sexually Transmitted Infections) affect people of all ages, they are especially prevalent among college aged students. Even though college students are around 25% of the sexually active population they account for over 50% of the 20 million new sexually transmitted infections each year. Young adults, 15 to 24 years old, make up nearly two-thirds of the reported chlamydia diagnoses and around half of the gonorrhea diagnoses. As a result, STI testing has become especially important on college campuses; and

Whereas, STI testing helps students live healthier lifestyles, can allow them to seek treatment, and protect themselves and others from further spread of disease. It is important to create an atmosphere that helps destigmatize getting yourself tested and promote the benefits STI testing will provide. In addition, it can help relieve the rise in STI cases reported daily in the United States; and

Whereas, Through creating awareness concerning sexually transmitted infections, students will have accurate information about the common sexually transmitted diseases to be able to make informed decisions to get tested. Students also should be informed about their ability to utilize the STI testing resources at the Pat Walker Health Center year-round; and

Whereas, On April 2nd, the Associated Student Government (ASG) is hosting the ASG Sexual Health Awareness Event in the Arkansas Union Connections Lounge from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. to coincide with National STI/HIV Testing Day. The overarching goal of the event is to raise awareness about sexually transmitted infections among students and promote positive sexual health by encouraging students to get tested through the GYT (“Get Yourself Tested”) Clinic at the Pat Walker Health Center; and

Whereas, One of the activities planned for the event is a raffle for students, in which students can enter for a chance to win a voucher enabling them to receive a free STI test at the GYT Clinic. The voucher will effectively waive the $40 out-of-pocket cost of a GYT Test. The Pat Walker Health Center will donate 15 of these vouchers to be raffled off; then

Be it therefore resolved: The Associated Student Government Senate serves as the voice of the student body and, in addition to supporting and endorsing the event in general, finds it appropriate to provide financial support to promote STI testing awareness. This support will come in the form of matching the number of free STI testing vouchers for students to be given away via raffle at the ASG Sexual Health Awareness Event on April 2nd. As previously agreed upon, ASG Senate will fund 15 more of fee waivers to bring the total number of STI testing vouchers that will be given away to 30; and

Be it further resolved: The Associated Student Government Senate allocates $600 from the Senate Legislative Allocations Budget (LS-Prog) for the purchase of 15 free vouchers ($40 per voucher), allocated to the Pat Walker Health Center to be given away at the event to be held April 2nd of 2019 in the Union Connections Lounge. All funds not used will be allocated back to the ASG Senate (LS-Prog); and

Be it further resolved: The University of Arkansas Associated Student Government openly encourages the student body to receive sexually transmitted infection testing regularly. The approval of these funds allows the Associated Student Government Senate to raise awareness and promote healthy lifestyles for the University of Arkansas student body; and

Be it finally resolved: A copy of this bill be forwarded to Assistant Director of Communications Zac Brown at Pat Walker Health Center.

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Amendments:

Vote Count: Aye 40 Nay 1 Abstentions 1

Legislation Status: Passed Yes Failed­ Other

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Colman Betler, ASG Chair of the Senate Date

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J.P. Gairhan, ASG President Date