**Associated Student Government**

*University of Arkansas*

*ASG Senate Resolution No. XX*

Author(s): Senator Jesse Kloss, Senator Drake Moudy, Director of the Associate Member Program Maria Calderon, Director of External Relations Trevor Villines

Sponsor(s): Senator Christine Carroll, Senator Mateo Lopez, Senator Ben Thornton, Senator Collin Petigna, Senator Noah Bradshaw, Senator Clay Smith, Senator Warrington Sebree, Senator Garrett Dorf

**A Resolution to Support the Razorback Action Group in Combating the Opioid Epidemic**

Whereas, There is an opioid epidemic in the United States, in which more than 11.5 million Americans ages 12 and older reported misuse of prescription opioids in the year 2016[[1]](#footnote-1); and

Whereas, In October of 2017, President Donald Trump and Acting Health and Human Service Secretary Eric Hargan declared a nationwide public health emergency regarding the opioid crisis in the United States in order to accelerate the appointment of specialized personnel to combat the opioid crisis more effectively and to expand treatment access[[2]](#footnote-2); and

Whereas, The White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and the U.S. Department of Education issued a joint statement advocating for the establishment of more collegiate recovery programs on campuses across the U.S.; and

Whereas, Governor Asa Hutchinson and the state of Arkansas have sought to combat the opioid crisis by establishing a statewide protocol for tracking prescription drugs and establishing drug take-back locations with Arkansas Drug Director Kirk Lane[[3]](#footnote-3); and

Whereas,       Young adults between ages 18 and 25 are at the greatest risk for opioid abuse[[4]](#footnote-4); and

Whereas, 21% of those aged 18 to 21 meet the criteria for substance abuse disorder, meaning college campuses need to support students in recovering from addiction[[5]](#footnote-5); and

Whereas, A number of universities in the SEC have already implemented collegiate recovery programs, including Auburn University, Mississippi State University, the University of Georgia, the University of Alabama, the University of Florida, the University of Kentucky, the University of Mississippi, the University of South Carolina, and Vanderbilt University[[6]](#footnote-6); and

Whereas, Collegiate recovery programs are designed to help students facing addiction by providing educational opportunities alongside recovery support[[7]](#footnote-7); and

Whereas, Texas Tech University in particular has been at the forefront in developing a collegiate recovery program with their Center for Collegiate Recovery Communities. Their facility includes a meditation room, a student kitchen, a computer lab with free printing, study areas, a game room, and a TV lounge. They offer academic advising, scholarships, study abroad opportunities, as well as recovery-living dorms for students suffering from addiction[[8]](#footnote-8); and

Whereas, The Center for Collegiate Recovery Communities at Texas Tech University’s efforts in helping students suffering from addiction has resulted in low relapse rates, high GPA’s, and high graduation rates[[9]](#footnote-9); and

Whereas, The Razorback Action Group had been working to bring a collegiate recovery program to the University of Arkansas campus; and

Whereas, The Razorback Action Group has gained the support of Dr. Bobbitt, President of the University of Arkansas System, and Kelly Eichler, member of the University of Arkansas System Board of Trustees, in its’ efforts to address the opioid and substance abuse epidemic; and

Be it therefore resolved: The Associated Student Government Senate at the University of Arkansas supports the establishment of a collegiate recovery program on the University of Arkansas campus in order to aid students facing opioid addiction as part of the nationwide effort to combat the opioid crisis; and

Be it therefore resolved: The Associated Student Government Senate supports the expansion of the Razorback Medical Attention & Reporting Alternative Resolution Policy[[10]](#footnote-10) to include opioids and substance abuse; and

Be it further resolved: The Associated Student Government Senate supports the Razorback Action Group’s efforts to partner with the student government associations at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock and at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff to combat the opioid crisis facing college campuses in Arkansas; and

Be it further resolved: The Associated Student Government Senate supports the opioid awareness week sponsored by the Razorback Action Group and the drug take-back effort; and

Be it further resolved: A copy of this resolution be sent to President Bobbitt of the University of Arkansas System, Chancellor Joseph Steinmetz of the University of Arkansas, Judge Joseph Wood of Washington County, Fayetteville Mayor Lioneld Jordan, Arkansas Drug Director Kirk Lane, Attorney General Leslie Rutledge of the state of Arkansas, and Governor Asa Hutchinson of the state of Arkansas.

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Amendments:

Vote Count: Aye acclimation Nay Abstentions

Legislation Status: Passed yes Failed­ Other

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Colman Betler, ASG Chair of the Senate Date

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Andrew Counce, ASG President Date

1. https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/president-donald-j-trump-taking-action-drug-addiction-opioid-crisis/ [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2017/10/26/hhs-acting-secretary-declares-public-health-emergency-address-national-opioid-crisis.html [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. https://governor.arkansas.gov/radio/detail/opioid-epidemic-a-national-health-emergency [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. https://www.nbcnews.com/feature/college-game-plan/opioid-crisis-how-america-s-colleges-are-reacting-epidemic-n797696 [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. https://collegiaterecovery.org/ [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. http://www.recoverycampusdigital.com/directory2018/ [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. https://collegiaterecovery.org/ [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. http://www.depts.ttu.edu/hs/csa/index.php [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. http://www.depts.ttu.edu/hs/csa/index.php [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. https://ethics.uark.edu/policies/alternative-resolution-policy.php [↑](#footnote-ref-10)