

Rationale for SENATE RESOLUTION 07-25-26

All,

The Undergraduate Student Government serves as the voice and governing body for the undergraduate student community at The University of Akron. Throughout the undergraduate body, there is an overwhelming lack of understanding surrounding consent, especially sexual coercion. The University of Akron defines coercion as “...conduct that would place a reasonable person in fear and that is used to compel that person to engage in a sexual act. Examples of coercive conduct include intimidation, unreasonable pressure, and express or implied threats of immediate or future harm to the person or others. Harm may be a physical, emotional, reputational, financial, or other injury to that person or another, or to personal property.”

The National Institute of Health reports that 34-43% of college women report unwanted sexual contact and 28% of college men report the same. Further data reports that college-aged women are three times more likely to experience unwanted sexual contact at a university. Furthermore, coercion is an aspect of consent that is often not understood due to its case-by-case nature. Unfortunately, this can lead to victims of sexual assault being left knowing that something wrong happened to them, but unable to understand why they feel that way. This can discourage survivors from seeking help as they assume they won't be believed. It is imperative that students at The University of Akron who experience this are adequately informed about the resources they can use for help. Additionally, it is important to explain that coercive behaviors are not explicitly aggressive and may appear in the form of love-bombing, guilt, and other manipulation tactics. It is the hope of the Undergraduate Student Government that through providing these additional resources, survivors will not only be able to seek the help that they need, but other students will be able to recognize coercive situations in the moment.

In order to increase consent understanding, we urge The University of Akron to apply resource displays to the inside of every bathroom stall door containing available resources for help for those who are victims of sexual assault including directions outlining how to access The University of Akron's Title IX policy. Additionally, we ask The University of Akron to provide an information sheet about trauma responses to every student as they check in during move-in.

We believe that the establishment of these policies will first and foremost uphold the All4UA pillar of empowering student perspectives through encouraging survivors of sexual assault to seek help and speak out about their experiences. Additionally, this resolution will promote the All4UA pillars of enhancing the community and expanding personal growth through destigmatizing the topic and providing support for those who need it.

Respectfully,

Eliza Kleinschmidt
Senator at Large

Sridevi Swaminathan
Senator at Large

Cheyenne Blankenship
First Year Senator

Brooklynn Moore
*Senator for the College of Health
and Human Sciences*

LEGISLATION NO.: [SR 07-25-26](#)

SUBJECT: [Consent/Coercion Move-In and
Bathroom Resources](#)

REVIEWED BY COMMITTEE: [Facilities, Amenities, Services, and
Transportation Committee](#)

ON: [10/20/2025](#)

SPONSORS: [Senators Kleinschmidt,
Swaminathan, Blankenship,
Moore](#)

DATE INTRODUCED: [12.04.25](#)

A RESOLUTION TO PROVIDE CONSENT AND COERCION UNDERSTANDING DEFINITIONS AND SEXUAL ASSAULT HELP RESOURCES IN BATHROOMS

WHEREAS: 34-43% OF COLLEGE WOMEN AND 28% OF COLLEGE MEN REPORT EXPERIENCING UNWANTED SEXUAL CONTACT; AND

WHEREAS: THERE IS A LACK OF UNDERSTANDING ABOUT CONSENT THROUGHOUT COLLEGE STUDENTS AND

WHEREAS: THESE POLICIES WOULD SEEK TO EXPAND UNDERSTANDING ABOUT CONSENT; AND

WHEREAS: TO REINFORCE BODILY AUTONOMY, ENCOURAGE SURVIVORS TO SEEK HELP; AND REDUCE THE NUMBER OF UNREPORTED SEXUAL ASSAULT CASES; NOW THEREFORE

BE IT THE UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT REQUESTS THE PLACEMENT OF
RESOLVED: RESOURCE DISPLAYS CONTAINING SEXUAL ASSAULT HELP RESOURCES DIRECTIONS TO ACCESS THE UNIVERSITY OF AKRON'S TITLE IX POLICY; AND

BE IT FURTHER THE PROVISION OF INFORMATION ABOUT TRAUMA RESPONSES BE PROVIDED ON TO
RESOLVED: EVERY STUDENT AT CHECK IN DURING MOVE-IN.

_____, NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT SENATE CONFIRMS SAID ADOPTION OF THIS RESOLUTION BY A MAJORITY AFFIRMATIVE VOTE OF SENATE AS A WHOLE.

ACTION TAKEN BY SENATE:

USG SENATE CHAIR

DATE

USG PRESIDENT

DATE

Appendix 1 to Senate Resolution 07-25-26

Direct quote from NIH “Sexual Communication and Sexual Consent Self-Efficacy Among College Students: Implications for Sexually Transmitted Infection Prevention”:

“Sexual violence and unwanted sexual contact are prevalent on college campuses for men and women. Approximately one in three women experience interpersonal violence in their lifetime, with sexual violence being the most common form of violence encountered (1). Rates of unwanted sexual contact reported by college women have ranged from 34% to 43% while 28% of college men report similar experiences (2-4). The short- and long-term health consequences associated with sexual violence are myriad, including post-traumatic stress disorder, eating disorders, depression, anxiety, and overall poorer quality of life (4). Additionally, these experiences may increase risk of alcohol and substance use, unintended pregnancies, and sexually transmitted infections (STIs) (5),” (Edison et al.).

Appendix 2 to Senate Resolution 07-25-26



Office of the Dean of Students

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November 25, 2025

Dear Undergraduate Student Government Senate:

As Assistant Dean of Students and coordinator of the university's Sexual Assault and Violence Education (SAVE) Team, I offer my sincere support of this legislation. This initiative represents an essential step towards preventing sexual violence and supporting survivors in our campus community.

Comprehensive awareness and prevention efforts are critical to addressing issues related to sexual violence among our student population. I am enthusiastic to witness the commitment of the Undergraduate Student Government as it pertains to furthering students' understanding of matters related to consent.

I again would like to express my enthusiasm to support this legislation and to engage the SAVE Team in supporting the proposed initiatives.

Sincerely,

Jacqueline Dolovacky
Assistant Dean of Students

Appendix 3 to Senate Resolution 07-25-26



December 3, 2025

Dear Eliza Kleinschmidt, Sridevi Swaminahan, Cheyenne Blankenship, Brooklynn Moore and esteemed members of the Undergraduate Student Government,

I am writing to express my full and enthusiastic support for your proposed resolution and its accompanying bill to expand consent education and increase access to resources for survivors of sexual violence at The University of Akron.

By identifying gaps in community awareness about coercion, highlighting the complexities of consent, and offering tangible solutions, you are advancing work that is both urgently needed and deeply aligned with our institutional values. The clarity with which you outline the need, and the direct actions you propose to address it, demonstrate an intentional and meaningful commitment to the well-being of your peers.

The measures you recommend:

- installing resource magnets in bathroom stalls;
- distributing trauma-response information sheets during move-in; and
- creating awareness through continued engagement and participation in shared community initiatives,

are practical, thoughtful, and impactful. These steps will help create a campus environment where all of us feel valued, supported, and empowered to seek help when needed. I am especially encouraged by your efforts to illuminate conversations around coercive behaviors, many of which are subtle, situational, and frequently misunderstood. Deepening our collective understanding of these dynamics as well as the policies, procedures, and resources that exist to address them are a meaningful steps toward a safer and more informed community.

As Dean of Students, I am grateful for your leadership and your dedication to fostering a culture of respect, safety, and accountability at The University of Akron. Please know that you have my partnership and full support as this resolution and accompanying bill move forward.

Thank you for your vision, your advocacy, and your commitment to creating positive change.

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael Strong".

Michael Strong
Dean of Students and Associate Vice President

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