The Hazlewood Act Lobbying Bill

"A bill supporting the lobbying of the Texas Legislature for increased funding for Veteran higher education benefits."

Whereas(1): There are approximately 2000 veterans and military dependents that are undergraduate, masters, and PhD students at Texas A&M; and,

Whereas(2): The Hazlewood Act is a Texas Education Code (Chapter 21, Subchapter NN, Sections 21.2099-21.2110) that allows eligible veterans and military dependents to finance education costs at public universities in the State of Texas; and,

Whereas(3): The Hazlewood Act exempts only those tuition, fee and other costs that are required for enrollment and is not applicable to fees for services, items not required for enrollment and items not required for specific courses taken by the student; and,

Whereas(4): University administrators here at Texas A&M, and at other public universities in the State of Texas, have made comments regarding the future of The Hazlewood Act in Texas public universities as it applies to eligible military dependents; and,

Whereas(5): Currently, The Hazlewood Act does not inflict extra costs upon the university, but rather exempts potential revenue from entering the Texas A&M University budget due to The Hazlewood Act’s status as an unfunded state mandate; and,
Whereas(6): The Texas Legislature has passed or proposed legislation and legal actions that will further reduce state funding to higher education in the state, which could eventually lead to a degradation of the quality of education received at higher education institutions in the State of Texas; and,

Whereas(7): The Veterans Task Force has raised concern over the future of the Hazlewood Act in regard to eligible military dependents, and looks to work closely with Texas A&M University officials, and the Texas A&M Student Government Association delegation to the Texas Legislature, in order to preserve the Hazlewood Act in a way that is beneficial to Texas A&M University and eligible military dependents.

Therefore
Let it be
Enacted(1): That the Student Government Association of Texas A&M University, in conjunction with the Veterans Task Force and Texas A&M University officials, lobby the State of Texas Legislature for portions of the Hazlewood Act to be funded through the State; and,

Let it be
Further
Enacted(2): That the Veterans Task Force encourages and recommends, that a member of the Student Government Association, knowledgeable in veteran and military affairs, be appointed to the Student Government Legislative delegation in order to advocate properly for the Hazlewood Act with the Texas Legislature and Texas A&M University officials; and,

Let it be
Further
Enacted(3): That the Student Government Association of Texas A&M advocates for the Texas Legislature to reach a consensus regarding the Hazlewood Act and its future for eligible military dependents; and,
Let it be
Further Enacted(4): That a copy of this legislation shall be sent to the following individuals within 5 days of being passed in Senate:

- Texas A&M University President Bowen Loftin
- EVP for Academic Affairs Karen Watson
- VP for Student Affairs Lt Gen Joe Weber
- Dr. Ann Kenimer, Associate Provost for Undergraduate Studies
- Col. Jerry Smith, USMC (Ret.), Director Veteran Resource and Support Center
- Faculty Senate Speaker Dr. John Stallone
- Mr. Nick Kilmer, Texas A&M Department of Financial aid, Veteran Services Office
- Texas Senator Leticia Van de Putte, Chair Veterans Affairs and Military Installations Committee
- Texas Senate and House Higher Education Committees