

# The Student Senate

Texas A&M University

S.B. 68-28

The Student Senate  
68th Session  
Texas A&M University

**Introduced By:** Aubre Dean, Speaker Pro Tempore of the Senate  
Senator Jackson Kuplack, Liberal Arts Caucus

**Sponsored By:** Chair Joseph Hood, Finance Committee  
Vice President Jacob Arnett, Legislative Relations  
Senator Chandler Smith, COALS Caucus  
Senator Kasey Khoobiar, Liberal Arts Caucus  
Senator Abby Hutton, Off Campus Caucus  
Senator Shara McDonald, Off Campus Caucus  
Senator Jeremy Peel, Off Campus Caucus  
Senator Ryan Simpson, Off Campus Caucus  
Senator Annie Flowers, Freshmen Caucus  
Senator Molly Gilliland, Freshmen Caucus  
Senator Alex Rose, Corps of Cadets Caucus  
Senator W Lander, Corps of Cadets Caucus  
Senator Elizabeth Schaller, Liberal Arts Caucus  
Senator Ja'Cory Clark, On Campus Caucus

Action Taken



Certified By:

*Aaron Mitchell '16*

Aaron Mitchell  
Speaker of the Senate

- By roll call vote 25-22
- Reconsidered with roll call vote of 25-23

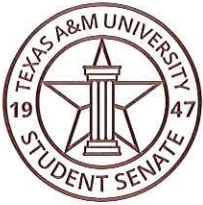
Duly Approved:

*Joseph Benigno '16*

Joseph Benigno  
Student Body President

## The Sexual Assault and Harassment Victims Protection Bill

*"A bill in opposition of H.R.3403 - Safe Campus Act of 2015, and the harmful effects it would have on the students of Texas A&M University."*




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Further Certified By:

  
Aaron Mitchell  
Speaker of the Senate

- Whereas(1):** On September 22, 2015, Texas A&M University announced a campaign called “Step In. Stand Up.” An organization founded in order to combat sexual assault at Texas A&M University, as well as calling on students to be at the forefront in addressing sexual assault and harassment on campus; and,
- Whereas(2):** H.R. 3403 would negatively change the process Universities must take in the investigation and disciplinary procedures of handling sexual assault and sexual harassment cases, as well as impede on the protections that Title IX insures; and,
- Whereas(3):** This change would force sexual assault and sexual harassment victims to file charges with law enforcement against the accused before the University can take any steps to protect them or can conduct internal investigations; and,
- Whereas(4):** According to a report by the Justice Department in 2014, only 20 percent of campus sexual assault victims go to the police given that victims are often assaulted by friends and partners, pressing charges does not seem like an option, many victims are afraid of not being taken seriously and/or being treated poorly by police, and that many victims do not feel like they can withstand a trial while taking classes and dealing with the emotional effects of the assault itself; and,
- Whereas(5):** Because H.R. 3403 forces students to consult law enforcement before the University can act, it is practical to assume that the fear of going to law enforcement will hinder the likelihood of the students seeking support from the University or potentially reporting the assault at all; and,
- Whereas(6):** H.R. 3403 is opposed by the Association of American Universities, which A&M is a member of, in addition to at least 220 major advocacy groups including but not limited to:
- Texas Association Against Sexual Assault
  - Victim Rights Law Center
  - National Alliance to End Sexual Violence
  - American Federation of Teachers



# The Student Senate

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Further Certified By:

  
Aaron Mitchell  
Speaker of the Senate

**Therefore**

**Let it be**

**Enacted(1):** That the Student Government Association, on behalf of the students of Texas A&M University, steps in and stand up for victims of sexual assault and sexual harassment by denouncing H.R. 3403 and encourages the Texas A&M University System to do the same; and,

**Let it be**

**Further**

**Enacted (2):** That it shall be the official policy of the Student Government Association, on behalf of the student body of Texas A&M University, to advocate at the National level against H.R. 3403, especially but not limited to events such as SEC in DC, and any other lobbying opportunities that present themselves; and,

**Let it be**

**Further**

**Enacted (3):** As the official policy of the Student Government Association, the disapproval of H.R. 3403 also be discussed with other Legislative Relations affiliates from other Texas institutes of Higher Education by the Legislative Relations Vice President; and,

**Let it be**

**Further**

**Enacted(4):** That copies of this legislation shall be sent to-

- Members of the U.S. House Education and Workforce Committee
- The bill authors of H.R. 3403
- All Texas Congressmen and Congresswomen
- The leadership of the Texas A&M University System
- The leadership of Texas A&M University - College Station
- The Texas A&M Office of Government Relations