A Resolution to Allow Self Defense, CPR, and First Aid Training for Resident Assistants

Whereas Resident Assistants currently are not trained or permitted to administer CPR or First Aid to any residents, and,

Whereas, The current policy concerning self-defense is to deescalate the situation and walk away, where Resident Assistants are unequipped to respond to a violent situation; and,

Whereas, Having no training in self-defense, CPR, or First Aid; Resident Assistants are authoritative nominally only and unequipped to properly respond to emergency situations, should physical violence ensue. According to a study conducted at the University of North Texas, administering CPR and First Aid training “significantly increased RA first-aid efforts for residential students” (Thombs DL, Gonzalez JM, Osborn CJ, Rossheim ME, Suzuki S. Resident assistant training program for increasing alcohol, other drug, and mental health first-aid efforts. Prev Sci. 2015 May;16(4):508-17. doi: 10.1007/s1111-014-0515-x. PMID: 25322950; PMCID: PMC493752.); and,

Whereas, When trained in Self-Defense, a Resident Assistant is equipped with the skills to handle a threatening situation properly, leaving less chance for them to be injured by an oppressor.
Be it therefore resolved:  Associated Student Government (ASG) Senate supports the resolution to allow Resident Assistants to have the choice to be trained in and preform CPR and First Aid as needed; as well as be trained in Self Defense; and,

Be it further resolved:  Furthermore, ASG Senate supports the requirement of these topics to be added to Resident Assistants choose to opt-in.

Be it finally resolved:  A copy of this legislation be sent to Residents' Interhall Congress, Associate Director for Residence education Megan Witherspoon Evans.

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Amendments:

Vote Count:  Aye 38  Nay 2  Abstentions 1

Legislation Status:  Passed X  Failed  Other

Jack Switzer, ASG Chair of the Senate  11/18/21  Date

Coleman Warren, ASG President  11/29/2021  Date