Associated Student Government
University of Arkansas

ASG Senate Resolution No. 4
Author(s): Senator Mary Fuhrman, Senator Myah Rossi, Director of Student Safety Sophie McAdara, Associate Member Program Coordinator Hannah Grace Kelly, Deputy Director of Student Safety Gerson Fajardo
Sponsor(s): Associated Student Government President Coleman Warren, Vice President of the Resident Interhall Congress Zachary Lee

A Resolution Supporting the Addition of Content Warnings & Resources to all University of Arkansas Police Department Safety Alerts, RazALERTS, and Emergency Messages to the Student Body

Whereas, The University of Arkansas is dedicated to providing a safe and working environment for all students, faculty, staff and visitors;

Whereas, In case of potentially dangerous situations, the institution has developed emergency alert systems such as RazALERT from the University of Arkansas, Safety Warnings from UAPD, and other relevant message-sending organizations;

Whereas, The purpose of RazALERT’s, according to the University of Arkansas Police Department, is to issue emergency alerts, safety warnings, and campus notifications to notify community members in a timely manner about crime in the community, specific weather emergencies, and other significant threats to the health or safety of the campus community; and

Whereas, The content of these messages can cause distress for individuals who are survivors of sexual trauma, violence, or who have had similar or related experiences;

Whereas, According to the statistics of campus sexual assault, 1 in 5 women and 1 in 13 men will be sexually assaulted during
their college career. However, 95% of assaults go unreported; and

Whereas, There is a lack of consistent inclusion of content warnings and resources for these individuals within emergency messages to the student body; and

Whereas, This step gives the reader a personal choice in how they wish to respond. If they choose to open, the reader is now warned of potentially sensitive information including sexual violence, medical imagery, self-harm and so on; and

Whereas, Other benchmark institutions, such as the University of Kentucky, have already introduced content warnings involving their campus safety alerts. They provide a “Note:”. This “Note:” indicates a content warning possibility for their campus community; and

Whereas, When the University of Kentucky sends a safety message via email that includes sensitive information, they not only provide a “Note:” at the top of the email, but the subject line arguably gives a surface warning of the content as well.

Be it therefore resolved: The Associated Student Government Senate supports the inclusion of content warnings and mental health resources on all emergency messages;

Be it further resolved: These content warnings should precede the actual contents of the message to inform readers of the general context of the message;

Be it further resolved: Resources provided in these alerts should include a link, phone number, and brief description of the following: Counseling and Psychological Services, Sexual & Relationship Violence Center, the Title IX Office, Rape Education by Peers Encouraging Conscious
Thought, No Woman Left Behind, and the Northwest Arkansas Center for Sexual Assault;

Be it finally resolved: A copy of this resolution should be sent to the University of Arkansas Police Department, the Interim Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Melissa Harwood-Rom, the Associate Dean of Students Lori Lander, and the Graduate-Professional Student Congress.

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Amendments: 

Vote Count: Aye 40 Nay _____ Abstentions 1

Legislation Status: Passed X Failed ____ Other ______

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

Coleman Warren, ASG President 11/29/2021