



Student Government Resolution 116.009
A Resolution in Strong Support of Missouri House Bill 539
Sponsored by the Student Government Health, Wellness and Safety Committee:
Zach Hollstrom, Chair, Korbin Keller, Elisabeth Condon, Lucasana Barker; Caitlyn Bess, Legislative Director; Molly Turner, President

WHEREAS,

- The Student Government is the official governing body of the Student Association and exists to represent the present and long term best interests of the Student Association in the formulation of the University policy and in the fulfillment of the University mission; and
- The purpose of medical amnesty is to remove the fear of legal consequences for individuals seeking potentially life-saving medical attention for themselves or for another individual; and
- It is the view of The Student Government that a medical amnesty law is an important
- first step toward medical amnesty policies in university student conduct codes; and
- It is the view of The Student Government that a medical amnesty law would directly and significantly impact the safety of the students of Truman State University, as well as universities all across Missouri; and
- The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse reports that over 5,000 people under the age of 21 die in alcohol related incidents annually¹; and
- House Bill 539 provides limited immunity to individuals seeking medical attention for themselves or another individual in relation to alcohol or drug consumption or possession²; and
- The amnesty from alcohol and drug charges provided by HB 539 is only granted in respect to alcohol and drug related charges, and does not extend to any other kind of criminal offense²; and
- 31 states currently have a medical amnesty law that provides immunity from alcohol and drug related charges to those seeking help in a medical emergency³; and
- A medical amnesty law in Missouri would create a safer environment on and off college campuses, especially in relation to alcohol; and

¹National Institute for Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism | <http://pubs.niaaa.nih.gov/publications/AA67/AA67.htm>

²Missouri House of Representatives | <http://house.mo.gov/billtracking/bills151/billpdf/commit/HB0539C.PDF>

³The Medical Amnesty Initiative | <http://www.medicalamnesty.org/#!/the-law/c2414>

- Hospitalizations for alcohol alone increased by 25% among people ages 18-24 from 1999 to 2008, while rates of hospitalization for combined use of drugs and alcohol increased by 75% during the same time period⁴; and
- A medical amnesty law greatly increases the chances that college students specifically would seek medical attention when it is necessary for themselves or for peers, which has the potential to protect students and save lives; and
- A Cornell University Study on their own medical amnesty protocol showed that in a student survey before the protocol's implementation, 19% of students thought about calling for help for an individual they were concerned about, but only 4% actually made the call⁵; and
- A study in the Journal of Student Affairs Research and Practice showed that when students were informed about a medical amnesty policy, they were 2.5 times more likely to seek help in an emergency situation related to alcohol⁶; and
- A medical amnesty law in Missouri would demonstrate that the health of our citizens is of the utmost importance, and a top priority to Missourians.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,

- That the Student Government of Truman State University stands in support of a medical amnesty law in the state of Missouri for the benefit of Truman State University students, students of all other Missouri universities, and all citizens of the state of Missouri; and
- Voices its full support for the passage of House Bill 539; and
- Endorses the enactment of House Bill 539 as Missouri state law.

⁴ National Institute for Alcohol and Alcoholism | <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3357438/>

⁵ Safety First: a Medical Amnesty Approach to Alcohol Poisoning at a U.S. University | <http://www.gannett.cornell.edu/cms/pdf/aod/upload/Safety1stcornellMedamnesty.pdf>

⁶ Journal of Student Affairs Research and Practice | https://learn.uvm.edu/wordpress_3_4b/wp-content/uploads/Impact-of-Online-Ed-Video-and-Med-Am-Pol.pdf

THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT OF TRUMAN STATE UNIVERSITY DIRECTS THAT,

- Additional copies of this resolution are disseminated to Governor, Jay Nixon; U.S. Senator, Roy Blunt; U.S. Senator, Claire McCaskill; U.S. Representative, Sam Graves; Missouri Representative, Bryan Spencer; Missouri Representative, Nate Walker; University President, Troy Paino; the Truman State University Board of Governors; Bill Witnesses: Representative Steve Lynch, Chad Sabora, Ronald Long, Kathi Arbin, and the Missouri Association for Social Welfare (Empower Missouri); Vice President of Student Affairs, Lou Ann Gilchrist; Vice President of Academic Affairs, Sue Thomas; Director of the Department of Public Safety, Sara Holzmeier; Director of the Student Health Center and University Counseling Services, Brenda Higgins; Chair of the Health and Exercise Science Department, Roberta Donahue; Director of Student Support Services, Michelle Blakely; Director of Residence Life, John Gardner; Director of the Office of Citizenship and Community Standards, Michelle Horvath; the Kirksville Police Department; the Adair County Sheriff's Office; and the Truman Media Network.

Passed November 1, 2015



Molly Ann Turner

President of the Student Association