



**Student Government Resolution 116.023**

**A Resolution in Opposition to Eliminating or Exempting Student Health Fees  
Sponsored by the Student Government Health, Wellness, and Safety Committee:  
Associate Senator Zach Hollstrom, Chair; Senator Elisabeth Condon; Senator Korbin  
Keller; Senator Lucasana Barker**

WHEREAS,

- The Student Government is the official governing body of the Student Association and exists to represent the present and long term best interest of the Student Association in the formulation of the University policy and in the fulfillment of the University mission; and
- The Student Health Center Fee is currently \$27 per semester; and
- The Student Health Center provides services for health issues that may not be covered by insurance policies, such as mental illness and disease prevention; and
- Student Health Centers serve as a student's "doctor's office" when they are away from home; and
- Student Health Centers are essential central hubs for improving public health and distributing health information on college campuses; and
- Student fees for any purpose are designed to support and benefit the entire student body, and cannot work the way they are intended if students are offered exemptions for all services which they do not specifically choose to utilize; and
- Vital resources such as the Truman Student Health Center and University Counseling Services would not exist in their current capacity without the Student Health Center Fee; and
- University Counseling Services (UCS) provided face-to-face counseling to 521 students, or 8.5% of the student body, according to their most recently published annual report for the 2013-2014 academic year<sup>1</sup>; and
- In the same year, according to the same report, UCS provided 70 after-hours crisis contacts to 57 individual students, as well as 9 daytime crisis contacts to 8 individuals<sup>1</sup>; and
- The increase in the number of students requesting counseling services has led University administrators to hire a new counselor beginning in the Fall of 2016 in order to better serve Truman students; and
- This year, since July 1st, 2015 until April 12th, 2016, the Student Health Center has seen 5,447 total patient encounters<sup>2</sup>; and
- There are limited resources outside Truman for students to utilize in the community, should the Student Health Center and UCS close; and

<sup>1</sup> [http://ucs.truman.edu/files/2015/06/UCS\\_Annual\\_Report\\_2014.pdf](http://ucs.truman.edu/files/2015/06/UCS_Annual_Report_2014.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Data provided by Student Health Center Director, Dr. Brenda Higgins.

- Currently, House Bill 2096 seeks to allow students at public institutions of higher education in the State of Missouri to opt out of the requirement to pay student health fees if those students show proof of health insurance<sup>3</sup>; and
- The possibility of large numbers of students opting out of the Student Health Center Fee could seriously compromise the quality of healthcare provided by the Student Health Center and University Counseling Services; and
- The possibility of large numbers of students opting out of the Student Health Center Fee could drastically reduce access to healthcare for students, particularly those without access to health insurance; and
- To continue providing vital physical and mental health care to students, it is crucial that the Student Health Center Fee is not threatened by exemptions offered in HB 2096.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,

- That the Student Government affirms the importance of student health fees to Truman students' health and wellbeing, as well as accessibility to health related services for all Missouri college campus communities; and
- The Student Government stands firmly in opposition to HB 2096 and any action that would eliminate or offer exemptions to students from student health fees.

THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT OF TRUMAN STATE UNIVERSITY DIRECTS THAT,

- Additional copies of this resolution are distributed to President, Troy Paino; the Board of Governors; Vice President of Student Affairs, Lou Ann Gilchrist; Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, Sue Thomas; Director of Student Health Center and University Counseling Services, Brenda Higgins; Assistant Director of University Counseling Services, Joe Hamilton; Missouri Representative, Nate Walker; Missouri Senator, Brian Munzlinger; Missouri Representative Jason Chipman; the Truman Media Network; and The Department of Special Collections.

**Passed April 17, 2016  
By Unanimous Consent**

**Molly Ann Turner  
President of the Student Association**

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.house.mo.gov/billsummary.aspx?bill=HB2096&year=2016&code=R>