# Senate

of the

# Student Government Association

of

# The Johns Hopkins University

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**An Act Providing Veritable Funding for the Send Silence Packing Event of April 2016**

Introduced By: Senator Tsang and Senator Zappone and considered this 16th day of February in the Year 2016

Sponsored By: Senator Fang of the Freshmen Class

Senator Korn of the Junior Class

Referred to the senate by Waived which RECOMMENDS its PASSAGE by a vote of 26 to 0.

*Be it enacted by the Senate of the Student Government Association of The Johns Hopkins University assembled that:*

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be referred to as the "Send Silence Packing Act of 2016."

**SECTION 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**

(a) FINDINGS

(1) Mental health issues have recently risen to prominence on the Homewood campus.

(2) Striving for Hopkins' standard of excellence can be detrimental towards student mental health.

(3) Mental health carries a societal stigma which the SGA intends to replace with open dialogue and validation.

a. Suicide as a result of mental illness yields an even greater stigma, with 44% of college students reporting that they "feel so depressed they find it hard to function."
b. Mental illness has resulted in at least one reported student suicide at JHU in the last two years.

(4) President Ron Daniels is creating a mental health task force to greater address mental health on campus, but the task force is not yet active.
a. Furthermore, the task force will broadly apply to all nine JHU campuses rather than the unique undergraduate needs found on the Homewood campus.

(5) To highlight the profundity of mental illness, the JHU Active Minds chapter has been solicited by its national parent to engage in "Send Silence Packing," a three-day suicide prevention event where 1,100 empty backpacks are brought to campus to symbolize the 1,100 college student suicides that occur every year.
a. The SGA anticipates that Active Minds' SSP event will:
i. Spark an immediate campus-wide discussion on suicide prevention
ii. Build support for impending mental health initiatives, including student medical leave reform and increased capacity in the counseling center.
iii. Establish a stronger JHU mental health reputation among potential applicants and matriculating students.
iv. Engender a healthier dialogue between the student body and Administration on mental health needs at JHU.
b. To ensure long-term propogation of the mental health discussion, the national Active Minds chapter will provide an outline of post-event activities to continue the conversation at JHU.
c. The $7,500 event will be subsized to $5,000 as JHU's Active Minds is in good national standing.
d. The Active Minds chapter has acquired the $2,500 in funding from the Office of Student Life.
e. The SSP event would occur the 20th, 21st or 22nd, April 2016.

(6) To fulfill the remaining need for funding of the SSP event, the JHU Active Minds chapter has solicited the SGA for financial support.

(7) Given the sentiment of the undergraduate student body, the SGA finds merit in funding JHU Active Minds' proposal.

(b) PURPOSES

(1) This act aspires to furnish appropriate funding for the SSP event.

(2) This act encourages the CMC to work with Active Minds in developing promotional materials for the event.

**SECTION 3. DEFINITIONS.**

(a) SGA — The term "SGA" shall mean the Student Government Association of The Johns Hopkins University.

(b) SAC — The term "SAC" shall mean the Student Activities Commission.

(c) CMC – The term "CMC" shall mean the Communications and Marketing Commission.

(d) SSP – The term "SSP" shall mean the Send Silence Packing event sponsored by Active Minds, both that proferred by the national and JHU chapters.

**SECTION 4. AUTHORIZATION OF FUNDING AND OTHER RESOURCES.**

(a) In accordance with the Constitution, Bylaws, and Procedures set forth, the SGA shall provide Active Minds with up to $2,500 of SSP event costs that remain after both its official reception of funds from the Office of Student Life and its reception of funds from the next monthly distribution of SAC monthly grants.

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**SECTION 5. SEVERABILITY.**

Should any provision of this Act, an amendment made by this Act, or the application of such provision or amendment to any person or circumstance be held to be unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act, the amendments made by this Act, and the application of such provision or amendment to any person or circumstances shall not be affected thereby.

THE BILL HEREBY _____ BY A VOTE OF _____ TO _____ WITH _____ ABSTENTIONS.

UPON PASSAGE, AS PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE, I HAVE HEREUNTO SET MY HAND AND CAUSED THE SEAL OF THE SENATE TO BE AFFIXED TO THIS BILL INDICATING THE SENATE'S ASSENT AND THUS OFFICIALLY DESIGNATING THE BILL'S ADOPTION AS LAW.