Senate

of the

Student Government Association

of

The Johns Hopkins University

{ *S. Bill. 17-18, 00* }

An Act Providing funding and support for DSAGA's LGBTQ+ Panel

Introduced By: President **Anthony Boutros** and considered this **4th** day of **April** in the Year **2018**

Sponsored By: President **Anthony Boutros** of the **Freshman** Class

Senator **Rushabh Doshi** of the **Freshman** Class

Referred to the senate by the **Committee on Constitution and Bylaws** which recommends its **Passage/failure** by a vote of **X** to **X**.

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

SECTION 1. TITLE.

This Act may be referred to as the "**DSAGA's LGBTQ+ Panel 2018**"

SECTION 2. DEFINITIONS.

(a) SGA — The term "SGA" shall refer to the Student Government Association of The Johns Hopkins University.
(b) JHU, Hopkins - The terms "JHU" and "Hopkins" shall refer to the Johns Hopkins University.
(c) DSAGA – The term DSAGA shall refer to the Diverse Sexuality and Gender Alliance of the Johns Hopkins University
(d) LGBTQ+ - The term shall refer to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and other minority gender and sexuality identities
(e) FreeState Justice – The term shall refer to the premier Maryland pro-bono legal provider and policy advocate for the LGBTQ+ community.

SECTION 3. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.

(a) FINDINGS
  (1) LGBTQ+ history and policy is underexplored;
  (2) Members of the LGBTQ+ community and allies should have the opportunity to learn about their community's history and politics;
  (3) Many JHU LGBTQ+ students are not connected to LGBTQ+ members and activists within the Baltimore community;
  (4) Many JHU LGBTQ+ students have not had the opportunities to meet LGBTQ+ professionals;
  (5) DSAGA is planning an April awareness month to provide opportunities for LGBTQ+ students and allies to learn about LGBTQ+ history and politics, to meet successful LGBTQ+ professionals, and to connect with the wider Baltimore LGBTQ+ community.
  (6) DSAGA will invite a four staff and board members of FreeState Justice who will:
    a. Speak to students about the history of FreeState Justice and its role in LGBTQ+ legal services and advocacy;
    b. Speak to students about the general history of LGBTQ+ community in Baltimore and Maryland;
    c. Speak to students about being LGBTQ+ in certain professions:
      - Specifically, legal, government, non-profit, health, and public health professionals who can speak about their experiences working in their fields and the fields of opportunities within those fields for advancing LGBTQ+ equality.
    d. Connect students with leading LGBTQ+ activists and advocates in Baltimore.
  (7) The Panel event will be held on April 11th, 2018 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. in Hodson Hall followed by a reception where students and panelists can network.
(b) PURPOSES
  (1) This act serves to fund the speaker fees for the DSAGA panel.

SECTION 4. Panelists

(a) The panel will be moderated by a DSAGA member and include four of the following speakers:
  a. Jessie Weber, Esq. FreeState Board President

i. Jessie Weber is an attorney at Brown, Goldstein & Levy, LLP (BGL). Her practice includes cases involving disability rights, civil rights, wage and hour violations, and appeals. She has handled LGBT rights cases involving discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression in contexts ranging from employment to students' exercise of their First Amendment rights. Prior to joining BGL, Jessie served as the 2010-2011 Francis D. Murnaghan, Jr. Appellate Advocacy Fellow at the Public Justice Center, where she represented clients and authored amicus briefs in federal and Maryland appellate courts on a variety of civil rights and anti-poverty issues. Jessie graduated from Princeton University and Yale Law School, where she co-directed the LGBT Rights Litigation Clinic. Following law school, Jessie clerked for the Honorable Catherine C. Blake of the U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland.

b. Rianna Matthews-Brown, FreeState Justice Vice President
    i. Rianna Matthew-Brown is a graduate of the University of Maryland School of Law with nearly ten years of federal, state, and local policy experience. Currently, Rianna is the Chief of Staff for Behavioral Health and Disabilities with the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH). She regularly briefs and advises the Deputy Secretary on policy, programmatic and administrative issues. Rianna began her career in the Washington, DC office of U.S. Senator Paul S. Sarbanes. She worked on Capitol Hill for approximately six years and specialized in health, labor, and employment issues. Rianna subsequently worked for the Baltimore City Health Department as the Director of the Office External Affairs. In this capacity, she served as the Department's official spokesperson and advised the Commissioner of Health on the Department's strategic communications, legislative and policy direction. Prior to joining DHMH, Rianna worked as Assistant Director of Legislation for the Service Employees International Union.
c. Joanne Rosen, Esq.
    i. Joanne Rosen is an Associate Lecturer in the Department of Health Policy and Management at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, where she teaches courses on the regulation of intimate behavior and on the intersection of public health, law and policy. She is also the Associate Director of the Clinic for Public Health Law and Policy. Her interests include reproductive health, the regulation of intimacy, and discrimination. Joanne served as counsel to the Ontario

Human Rights Commission in Toronto for 17 years, and specialized in human rights and administrative law. Joanne appeared before tribunals and all levels of Canadian courts, including the Supreme Court of Canada. She was also an adjunct faculty member at the University of Toronto Faculty of Law and an instructor in the Bar Admission Course in Toronto. From 2007 to 2010, Joanne was a lecturer at the Annenberg School for Communication at the University of Pennsylvania, where she taught courses on the public interest and on the right to privacy.

d. Mark A. Procopio, FreeState Justice Executive Director
    i. Mark Procopio is the Executive Director of FreeState Justice, a social justice organization that works statewide to improve the lives of LGBTQ Marylanders and their families through legal services, policy advocacy, outreach, education, and coalition building. As a member of the LGBTQ community and a former educator in Baltimore City, he experienced and witnessed the impact of systemic inequality and structural bias. His experience as a middle school teacher in Baltimore City stoked his passion and commitment to working with communities to achieve equality, access, and opportunity for all people regardless of race, gender identity, or sexual orientation. His career has focused on building partnerships, marshaling resources, and improving sustainability with social justice oriented education non-profits.
e. Jennifer L. Kent, Esq., Managing Attorney
    i. Jennifer Kent is the Managing Attorney of FreeState Justice. As Managing Attorney, Jennifer supervises and conducts FreeState's in-house litigation program, bringing cases to vindicate LGBTQ Marylanders' hard-won civil rights and engaging in strategic advocacy to expand access to justice for the LGBTQ community.
    ii. Jennifer brings a wide array of experience to FreeState Justice, including serving as one of its volunteer attorneys. Prior to joining FreeState, Jennifer spent seven years in private practice representing victims of terrorism and civil rights abuses. Since 2013, she has taught Maryland Civil Procedure at the University of Baltimore School of Law. After graduating Florida State University magna cum laude, she worked on human rights issues in Albania and England for the FSU Center for the Advancement of Human Rights. Jennifer graduated cum laude from the University of Florida Levin College of Law where she was a board member of the Florida Law Review. Jennifer is admitted to practice in all Maryland state courts, the United States District Court

for the District of Maryland, and the United States District Court for the District of Columbia.

SECTION 5. FUNDING

(a) The total cost of the event will be $2,300.
    a. Speaker fees for the panelists will be $2,000, per the invoice request from FreeState Justice.
    b. $300 will be used to purchase Hors D'oeuvres from Gertrude's.

(b) $2,000 is requested from SGA to cover the speaker fees.
    a. This money will be transferred to DSAGA's budget account and they will fulfill the FreeState Invoice.

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 **PASSES/FAILS** BY A VOTE OF **X** TO **X** WITH **X** ABSTENTIONS.

UPON PASSAGE, WE HAVE HEREUNTO SET OUR HANDS AND CAUSED THE SEAL OF THE SENATE TO BE AFFIXED TO THIS BILL INDICATING THE SENATE'S ASSENT AND THUS OFFICIALLY DESIGNATED THE BILL'S ADOPTION AS LAW.

Signatures of Enactment:

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AJ Tsang
President of the Senate
Executive Vice President of the Johns Hopkins SGA

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Noh Mebrahtu
Executive President of the Johns Hopkins SGA

_____

Rushabh Doshi

Executive Secretary of the Johns Hopkins SGA

_____

Mi Tu
Executive Treasurer of the Johns Hopkins SGA

Signatures of Ceremony:

_____

Introducer Name(s) Here
Introducer Position(s) Here

_____

Co-Sponsor Name(s) Here
Co-Sponsor Position(s) Here