

*Resolution Template*



**University of Illinois Springfield  
Student Government Association Resolution #13**

(Resolution # to be assigned by SGA President)

We Believe Students

Resolution Sponsor: President Aislinn Diaz

Co-Sponsors: Treasurer: Max Pernitsky

Board of Trustee Member Austin Verthein

1. Whereas, it has recently come to the Student Government Association's attention that the core belief of believing students who come forward with claims of sexual misconduct and racial bias are not receiving the benefit of the doubt by those in positions of power on campus and,
2. Whereas, students deserve to have the right to use their chosen avenue to express their experiences of misconduct by those in positions of power on campus without fearing any form of retaliation or intimidation and,
3. Whereas, those who currently benefit from their position of authority over others (be it their colleagues or students) have used their power as a form of retaliation or intimidation directly against past and present students and student workers and,
4. Whereas, the Title IX webpage under the UIS website has a specific section titled "Know My Rights and Options" which goes on to express two key pieces of information that relate to students choosing how to handle their experiences and the respect that should be shown to the students who come forward. Those two statements are "You have the right to choose not to make a report or submit a formal complaint" and "You have the right to feel safe on campus." These statements show that those in power using their position to force students to retract public statements made outside of a report or formal complaint goes against our own Title IX and,
5. Whereas, those who are in positions of power, be it the Student Government Association, Campus Senate, faculty, or staff who see their coworkers or peers explicitly abuse the power that has been bestowed upon them by the University must work to protect students against those who are actively working against the beliefs that we stand for as a University. It is important that those who abuse their position of power have no platform to continue their retaliation or intimidation tactics, no matter their past, present, or potential future importance to this campus,
6. **Therefore, Be It Resolved**, that those who have power on campus to stand together and refuse to allow any authority figure to abuse their power and attempt to retaliate or intimidate students who speak up about any form of misconduct they have experienced by those in power and,

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7. **Be It Further Resolved**, that the Student Government Association will believe all students who come forward with their experiences of sexual misconduct, racial bias, or other disorderly conduct done to them by those in positions of power on campus. The Student Government Association shall actively protect student voices, and work to make sure that those who are in positions of power are not allowed to abuse this power to retaliate or intimidate these students who are brave enough to speak out against those who are authority figures on campus. The Student Government Association shall allow students to choose which avenue best allows them to express their experiences, even if it does not include filing an official report against the authority figure, since the Student Government Association believes in restorative justice for victims over retributive justice.

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Signature of Secretary

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Signature of President