

A RESOLUTION OF THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF NORTHERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY, HIGHLAND HEIGHTS, KENTUCKY, ASKS THAT THE UNIVERSITY PROVIDE PREEMPTIVE, ADEQUATE, AND EFFECTIVE HEALTH COUNSELING SERVICES TO MINORITY STUDENTS

WHEREAS: The Health Counseling and Student Wellness Center of Northern Kentucky University (NKU) positively impacts its students by offering a variety of services such as: medical immunizations, Vision screenings, and Health Counseling services among others, and

WHEREAS: These services have an extreme impact on our campus community as this office received over four-thousand visits in the fiscal year of 2017-2018 , and

WHEREAS: According to the U.S. Department of Education, since 1980, undergraduate enrollment of 'non-white' undergraduate students has been steadily increasing. This trend must be taken into consideration, as this is reflected here on the campus of NKU, and

WHEREAS: While there is a lack of visual representation, there is also a lack of cultural competence. According to The American Psychiatric Association, barriers that diverse ethnic/racial groups face when getting care may include: "Lack of insurance, underinsurance, mental illness stigma, lack of diversity among mental health care providers, lack of culturally competent providers, language barriers, distrust in the healthcare system, and inadequate support for mental health services", and

WHEREAS: Deshawn King, a NKU senior business construction management major, spoke on his experience with NKU's Health Counseling and Student Wellness center saying, "I felt like I wasted fifteen dollars, and an hour of my time explaining my blackness to a white woman, and at the end, she told me I only had thirteen more sessions", and

WHEREAS: Currently, The Health Counseling and Student Wellness Center website offers a list of alternative resources for students to seek further assistance through resources within the Northern Kentucky, Cincinnati, and Southeastern Indiana regions, and

WHEREAS: Among these regions, alternative resources are only listed for women in need, those with behavioral problems, and those within the LGBTQ+ community, and

WHEREAS: Alternative resources should also include resources specifically dedicated to minority students and students who face language barriers, and

WHEREAS: Assistant Director of Retention and Success for the Center for Student Inclusiveness, Terrance McCraney, commented that, " Good mental health is so important for minority students...therefore, they need a place that will offer them effective health counseling services", and

WHEREAS: Providing preemptive, adequate, and effective counseling services to minority students is highly necessary as the effects of those who do not seek care based on cultural incompetence is detrimental to our campus community and society as a whole.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, ON THIS 18TH DAY OF MARCH 2019 THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF NORTHERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY ASKS THAT THE UNIVERSITY PROVIDE PREEMPTIVE, ADEQUATE, AND EFFECTIVE HEALTH COUNSELING TO MINORITY STUDENTS.

Signed: Hannah Edelen

Hannah Edelen, President

Attest: Jontay Brown

Jontay Brown, Senator