

**THE UNDERGRADUATE SENATE
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL**

USR-99-044

A RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR THE UNC CENTER FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

29 AUG 2017 INTRODUCED BY SPEAKER SHRIVER
COSPONSORED BY CHAIR WOODS
29 AUG 2017 PLACED ON THE INTRODUCTIONS OF CONCURRENT RESOLUTIONS
29 AUG 2017 PASSED BY FULL STUDENT SENATE
06 SEPT 2017 PASSED THROUGH JOINT GOVERNANCE COUNCIL

WHEREAS, the Student Body Constitution empowers the legislative bodies of student governance to pass all legislation “necessary and proper to promote the general welfare of the student body” (Article IV, Section 8);

WHEREAS, on September 8, 2017, the UNC Board of Governors will consider a proposal which will ban the UNC Center for Civil Rights from engaging in litigation;

WHEREAS, A decision to prohibit the UNC Center for Civil Rights from engaging in litigation would directly impinge upon the student government’s duty to promote the general welfare of the student body by interfering directly with the education and training of our School of Law students, curtailing academic freedom and freedom of speech, denying students the boon of the Center’s work, potentially affecting the School of Law’s accreditation, and diminishing its prestige;

WHEREAS, Such a decision would further impact students by tarnishing the University’s reputation as an open and welcoming community by directly targeting a program which has historically supported minority and low-income communities;

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Certify correct and proper by

US Speaker EA UGSBP

WHEREAS, Such a decision would also negatively impact the State of North Carolina, as the Center's work has historically protected the rights of our citizens, even against the overreach of the State itself;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE UNDERGRADUATE SENATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL THAT: The attached statement (Appendix A) supporting the continued role of the UNC Center for Civil Rights in litigation be approved as the formal position of The Undergraduate Senate:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall be forwarded to the Joint Governance Council for consideration as Joint Legislation;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, upon approval as Joint Legislation by the Joint Governance Council, the attached statement shall be sent to the following parties to encourage them to stand along with students in support of the ongoing work of the UNC Center for Civil Rights:

- (1) Margaret Spellings, President of the University of North Carolina System,
- (2) Carol Folt, Chancellor of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill,
- (3) W. Louis Bissette, Jr., Chairman of the UNC Board of Governors, and his fellow members of the Board;
- (4) Tyler Hardin, President of the UNC Association of Student Governments,
- (5) Haywood D. Cochrane, Chair of the UNC Chapel Hill Board of Trustees,
- (6) Martin Brinkley, Dean of the UNC Chapel Hill Law School,
- (7) Ted Shaw, Director of the Center for Civil Rights of the UNC Chapel Hill Law School,
- (8) Leslie V. Parise, Chair of the UNC Chapel Hill Faculty Council,
- (9) Shayna Hill, Chair of the UNC Chapel Hill Employee Forum, and
- (10) Any other parties deemed necessary and appropriate; and

Done by the Student Senate on this 29 day of August, 2017.

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Certify correct and proper by

WG Speaker GA UGSBP

Katharine Shriver

Katharine M. Shriver

Speaker, 99th Undergraduate Senate

And made law on this 6 day of September, 2017.

Elizabeth Adkins

Elizabeth Adkins

Student Body President

Appendix A.

Statement on the UNC Center for Civil Rights

To Whom It May Concern,

Since its inception by Julius L. Chambers in 2001, the UNC Center for Civil Rights has brought together faculty and students to promote its three core objectives: 1) equipping future attorneys with necessary skills to secure equal opportunities for minorities and low-income individuals, 2) influencing public policies and developing programs that remove racial and economic inequalities, and 3) representing, educating, and advocating for minority and low-income individuals to remove barriers and improve their own communities. The proposal to ban the UNC Center for Civil Rights from engaging in litigation work will not only impact the Center's ability to uphold its core mission,

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WS Speaker EA UGSBP

but also contravene the charge of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to serve the broader community through “public service.” Such a decision will impinge upon the student government’s duty to promote the general welfare of the student body by interfering with the education and training of our School of Law students and tarnish the University’s reputation as an open and welcoming community by directly targeting a program which has historically supported minority and low-income communities. Therefore, the Undergraduate Student Government and The Graduate and Professional Student Federation, the student government associations of UNC Chapel Hill, jointly call upon the UNC Board of Governors to support the Center for Civil Rights, the University, and their missions by deciding the question under deliberation in favor of the Center’s ability to continue to practice litigation.

Sincerely,

Katharine Shriver
Speaker of the Undergraduate Senate

Brian A. Coussens
Vice President of The GPSF

Elizabeth Adkins
Student Body President

Madelyn S. Percy
President of The GPSF

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Certify correct and proper by

KS Speaker MS UGSBP



THE GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL
STUDENT FEDERATION



UNDERGRADUATE EXECUTIVE BRANCH
STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Student Governments of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Frank Porter Graham Union

Campus Box #5210

Chapel Hill, NC 27599

To Whom It May Concern:

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