

UNIVERSITY of HOUSTON

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

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Draft: First Read

Resolution in Opposition to Texas Senate Bill 8

Whereas, on September 1, 2021, Governor Greg Abbott, signed into law Senate Bill 8 (SB8), which bans abortions after six weeks into a pregnancy, and further implicates anyone who “engages in conduct that aids and abets” an abortion¹;

Whereas, this state bill poses a threat to public safety considering there are no exceptions for those seeking to terminate a pregnancy that results from incest or rape².

Whereas, SB8 poses a further threat to public safety, fostering vigilantism by influencing people to spy on women and those who facilitate abortions, and offering a monetary reward for such spying.

Whereas, equitable access to safe abortion services is recognized as an international human right, a right that SB8 severely restricts.

¹ <https://www.newyorker.com/news/news-desk/sb-8-and-the-texas-preview-of-a-world-without-roe-v-wade><https://www.click2houston.com/news/local/2021/09/13/harris-county-judge-lina-hidalgo-to-discuss-nicholas-resolution-in-opposition-of-texas-abortion-law/>

² <https://www.click2houston.com/news/local/2021/09/13/harris-county-judge-lina-hidalgo-to-discuss-nicholas-resolution-in-opposition-of-texas-abortion-law/>

Whereas, Harris County has an estimated population of 5 million people, half of which are women³, including the University of Houston whose student body is 51% female⁴.

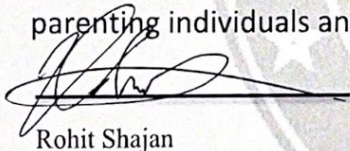
Whereas, section 5.1 of the University of Houston Anti-Discrimination Policy, as it pertains to accommodating pregnant and parenting students, states that the University prohibits discrimination against any student, or exclusion of any student from its education program or activity, including any class or extracurricular activity, on the basis of such student's pregnancy, childbirth, false pregnancy, termination of pregnancy, or recovery therefrom, unless the student requests voluntarily to participate in a separate portion of the program or activity of the recipient⁵.

Therefore, be it resolved by the Student Government Association of the University of Houston:

That the University of Houston Student Government Association strongly opposes Texas Senate Bill 8 and any future legislation that attempts to restrict reproductive rights and encroach on the individual autonomy of womb bearers;

Be it further resolved, the University of Houston Student Government Association stands in solidarity with womb bearers, and those in marginalized communities who are impacted by SB8.

Be it further resolved, that the University of Houston Women's and Gender Resource Center continues to prioritize gender equity which includes: supporting pregnant or parenting individuals and ending gender-based discrimination.



Rohit Shajan

Speaker of the Senate

Date of Senate Approval: 3-31-2022

Arsalan Darbin

Student Government President

Date of President's Approval: _____

³ <https://www.states101.com/gender-ratios/texas/harris-county>

⁴ <https://www.usnews.com/best-colleges/university-of-houston-3652#:~:text=Student%20Life%20at%20University%20of,students%20and%2051%25%20female%20students.>

⁵ <https://www.uh.edu/equal-opportunity/anti-discrimination/policies/>