

**An Act to Hire Additional Staff for the Counseling Center**

**Whereas,** the Tennessee Technological University Counseling Center provides essential services for the Tennessee Tech student body, **and**

**Whereas,** the number of students seen by the Counseling Center per academic year increased 182% between 2007/08 and 2019/2020, **and**

**Whereas,** the number of counseling sessions increased 150% between the same years, **and**

**Whereas,** the Counseling Center, despite the growth, has continually been understaffed given the amount of students since 2005, **and**

**Whereas,** students are now limited to 12 counseling sessions per academic year, **and**

**Whereas,** the counselor-to-student ratio is currently 1:2035, but to meet the International Accreditation of Counseling Services' standards, a minimum of two counselors is required, **and**

**Whereas,** the Counseling Center has had to limit programs due to an inadequate number of staff, **and**

**Whereas,** resources in the Upper Cumberland are limited, so finding off-campus counseling can be a long process, **and**

**Whereas,** as of 2018, Tennessee had a higher overall rate of suicide than the US average, **and**

**Whereas,** as of 2018, Putnam County faced a higher overall rate than the Tennessee state average, **and**

**Whereas,** due to the limited local resources, students often have difficulty finding consistent counseling in the area, **and**

**Whereas,** students' wellness is essential in ensuring a fulfilling academic life.

**NOW THEREFORE,**

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF  
TENNESSEE TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY THAT**

**Section 1:** This bill shall be known as "An Act to Hire Additional Staff for the Counseling Center."

**Section 2:** University funds shall be allotted to hiring an additional counselor.

**Section 3:** In the future, the staff levels for the Counseling Center will be kept to meet the International Accreditation of Counseling Services' student-to-counselor standards.

**Section 4:** Students who have chronic, long-term, or specialized needs will continue to be given referrals to off-campus providers.

**Section 5:** This Bill shall take effect immediately upon passage by the Student Government Association, the welfare of the students requiring it.

**Respectfully Submitted by:**

Kelly Bell  
*Senator, College of Business*

**Co-Sponsor(s):**

Elijah Tidwell  
*Senator, Residence  
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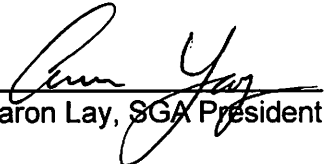
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Signed:

  
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