A Resolution in Support of the Installation of Condom Dispensers in the Laundry Rooms in UAB Residence Halls

WHEREAS the University of Alabama at Birmingham Undergraduate Student Government Association has the honor and responsibility of representing the entire undergraduate student voice; and

WHEREAS it is the duty of the USGA to lead the undergraduate student body towards positive and relevant changes; and

WHEREAS there is an overwhelming need for easier access to condoms on UAB’s campus; and

WHEREAS UAB participated in the National College Health Assessment survey conducted by the American College Health Association in Spring 2017 which includes sexual behavior and STI rates in said survey; and

WHEREAS only 29.8% of surveyed UAB students reported having no sexual partner within the last 12 months, meaning about 14,673 UAB students were sexually active at the time of the survey; and

WHEREAS only 44.9% (equating to about 9,384 students) of surveyed sexually active UAB students reported using a condom or other protective barrier within the last 30 days; and

WHEREAS only 51% (equating to about 10,660 students) of surveyed UAB students reported using a method of contraception the last time they had sexual intercourse; and

WHEREAS 15.8% (equating to about 3,302 students) of surveyed students reported using (or reported their partner used) emergency contraception within the last 12 months; and

WHEREAS 1.9% (equating to about 397 students) of surveyed students reported experiencing an unintended pregnancy, or got someone pregnant, within the last 12 months; and

WHEREAS 2.5% (equating to about 522 students) of surveyed students reported being diagnosed/treated for chlamydia within the past 12 months; and

WHEREAS 1.0% (equating to about 209 students) of surveyed students reported being diagnosed/treated for genital herpes within the past 12 months; and

WHEREAS free condoms are currently only accessible in the Student Multicultural & Diversity Office and Blazer Kitchen in the Hill Student Center, the Student Health & Wellness Center, and during occasional tabling by student organizations and programming by resident assistants; and

WHEREAS the UAB School of Public Health and the 1917 Clinic conducted a survey of 723 students from March 18, 2019 to April 26, 2019; and

WHEREAS 25.1% (equating to about 5,502 students) of UAB students responding to the aforementioned survey reported that it is difficult or very difficult to access condoms on campus, the largest proportion of students; and

WHEREAS 33.3% (equating to about 7,303 students) of UAB students reported that where they can access condoms as very important in their decision to use condoms; and

WHEREAS 25.5% (equating to about 5,592 students) of UAB students reported that when they can access condoms to be very important in their decision to use condoms; and

WHEREAS 24.8% of (equating to about 5,436 students) UAB students reported that whether or not they have to interact with someone to access condoms is very important in their decision to use a condom; and

WHEREAS providing free condom dispensers in residence hall laundry rooms poses many benefits; and

WHEREAS the use of condoms is the most easily accessible and effective way to prevent unintended pregnancy and the transmission of STIs; and

WHEREAS the installation of free condom dispensers in the laundry rooms of UAB Residence Halls would offer uninterrupted, centralized, non-judgmental access for residents; and

2 For a presentation of this data or for any relevant questions, please contact Dr. Austin, School of Public Health (elaustin@uab.edu).
WHEREAS the CDC has data to support the fact that providing adolescents with sexual and reproductive health services and information does not increase their sexual activity or pregnancy rate; and

WHEREAS a 2018 research study conducted by public health experts found that condom-availability programs were effective in increasing condom usage among sexually active students, as well as reducing rates of chlamydia and gonorrhea; and

WHEREAS public health experts attribute the nationwide spike in STI rates to a drop in prevention funding, poor understanding of STI prevention, and declines in condom use; and

WHEREAS there is an overwhelming amount of support among students for condoms to be easily accessible; and

WHEREAS 98.4% of 512 UAB students surveyed from a 4-month survey conducted to evaluate student demand for easy access to condoms in Rast Hall signed a petition in support of easy access to condoms; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the UAB USGA, representing the undergraduate student population, supports the installation of condom dispensers in the laundry rooms of all UAB Residence Halls based on the overwhelming need for access to affordable contraception, the benefits of condom use, and the support for the initiative from the UAB undergraduate student body.

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5 https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/programresources/guidance/condoms/index.html
6 See addendum.