

HARVARD LAW SCHOOL STUDENT BODY FALL TERM TWO THOUSAND NINETEEN

RESOLUTION NO. Res-203-002

AUTHORED BY: Hannah Dawson

A RESOLUTION TO: A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE HARVARD GRADUATE STUDENTS UNION STRIKE AUTHORIZATION VOTE

THE STUDENT BODY OF HARVARD LAW SCHOOL ENACTS:

WHEREAS, in April 2018, student workers at HLS and across Harvard voted to form our union in order to secure fair pay, comprehensive and affordable healthcare, and protections against discrimination and harassment; AND

WHEREAS, hourly research and teaching assistants at HLS generally earn just \$12/hour, the Massachusetts minimum wage; AND

WHEREAS, HLS student workers pay thousands of dollars out of pocket for healthcare, which increases our already significant six-figure student loan burdens; AND

WHEREAS, if HLS students or student workers face discrimination or harassment, we lack access to a fair, neutral, third-party grievance procedure through which to bring our claims; AND

WHEREAS, the Harvard Graduate Students Union bargaining committee has engaged in negotiations with the university for one year; AND

WHEREAS, over the past year, student workers have told our stories at the bargaining table; signed petitions; and held rallies, pickets, and work-ins; AND

WHEREAS, in March 2018, the Harvard Law School Student Government joined with student organizations at HLS and across the university in calling for the administration to agree to protections against discrimination and harassment, including access to a neutral, third-party grievance procedure; AND

WHEREAS, despite all of these efforts, the university administration has consistently refused to agree to contractual language that would guarantee fair pay, comprehensive and affordable healthcare, or protections against discrimination and harassment; AND

WHEREAS, the Harvard Law School Student Government aims to “defend the welfare of the Student Body, advocate for policy changes for the benefit of the Student Body, and promote shared student governance;”

WHEREAS, our graduate student union is calling for a union contract that would advance the welfare of the Student Body and promote student voice across the university;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Harvard Law School Student Government supports the upcoming Harvard Graduate Students Union Strike Authorization Vote;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Harvard Law School Student Government encourages HLS student workers to vote YES in the Harvard Graduate Students Union Strike Authorization Vote;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Harvard Law School Student Government calls on the university administration to agree to a contract that guarantees fair pay, comprehensive and affordable healthcare, and protections against discrimination and harassment.

PASSED IN THE STUDENT COUNCIL: 10/11/2019

VOTE TOTALS:

16 YES
0 NO
2 ABSTAIN

