

HARVARD LAW SCHOOL STUDENT BODY FALL TERM TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-ONE

RESOLUTION NO. Res-205-001

AUTHORED BY: J.R. Hamilton

A RESOLUTION TO: A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE HARVARD GRADUATE STUDENTS UNION'S BARGAINING EFFORTS TO GAIN A FAIR AND MORE EQUITABLE CONTRACT

THE STUDENT BODY OF HARVARD LAW SCHOOL ENACTS:

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

WHEREAS, on September 1, 2021, the Harvard Graduate Students Union's first contract expired; AND

WHEREAS, our graduate student union is calling for a new union contract that would advance the welfare of the many graduate student workers in our Student Body and amplify their voices across the university; AND

WHEREAS, the Harvard Graduate Students Union bargaining committee has engaged in negotiations with the university since March 2021; AND

WHEREAS, Harvard's endowment grew to \$53.2 billion, posting returns of 33.6% in fiscal year 2021, marking an increase of \$11.3 billion from the previous year; AND

WHEREAS, Harvard University continues to refuse to provide wages on par with peer institutions and inflation, with their contract proposal for student worker wages including a mere 2.5% increase that would amount to a net loss in pay when adjusted for inflation; AND

WHEREAS, students and student workers lack access to a neutral third party to deal with workplace harassment, discrimination, and retaliation claims and grievances; AND

WHEREAS, the university administration has rejected any agreement for contractual language that would guarantee comprehensive and affordable healthcare during a global pandemic; 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;" AND

WHEREAS, on September 30, 2021, 91.7% of the Harvard University Graduate Students Union voters authorized their bargaining committee to call a strike;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Student Body, through its duly elected representatives, stands in solidarity with Harvard Graduate Students Union, and supports their efforts to obtain fair and equitable terms of employment, including a workers strike if need be. We urge the Harvard University administration to resolve this issue in short order in consideration of both the workers and the students.

PASSED IN THE STUDENT COUNCIL: October 26, 2021

VOTE TOTALS:

15 YES

1 NO

 ABSTAIN

