

Bill 001

A Bill to Allow For the Public Endorsement of Candidates During SGA Elections

Sponsored by: Senator Ortiz

Co-Sponsored by: Senator Harrington, Senator Vanraes, Senator Hermes, Senator Janssen

Whereas,

Section 3, Clause 13 of the Student Government Associations Election Rules and Guidelines for Candidates states:

“ Candidates shall not request, accept, or publicize endorsements from University recognized organizations or candidates ”¹

Whereas,

This policy is arbitrary and not reflective of other democratic elections.

Whereas,

The Federal Election Commission allows for the endorsement of candidates during any federal election.²

Whereas,

Within the Georgetown student paper, two candidates of the 2024 executive election are described as obtaining endorsements. This was and still is permitted by their student government policies.³ George Washington University also allows for the public endorsement of candidates.

Be it enacted that,

The Student Government Association Senate, acting in its official capacity as the representative of the undergraduate student body of The Catholic University of America, hereby amends the following in its bylaws to read:

1. Section 6, Clause 1, Subclause II

“ Candidates are permitted to request, accept and publicize endorsements from other SGA approved candidates and individual students. However, candidates are not permitted to obtain public or private endorsement from any staff/faculty member of the University, ”

¹ <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1f-mCkMt24W9T4OIZ997Yhls2R0MAXkOhIf80jtzZFF4/edit?tab=t.0>

² <https://www.fec.gov/help-candidates-and-committees/making-disbursements-ssf-or-connected-organization/endorsing-candidates-corporation-labor-organization/>

³ <https://georgetownvoice.com/2024/11/05/for-more-from-student-government-vote-henshaw-wagner-for-gu-sa-executive/>

student organizations nor outside third parties.”

Be it enacted that,

The Student Government Association Senate, acting in its official capacity as the representative of the undergraduate student body of The Catholic University of America, hereby amends the following in the Executive Board Election Procedures of the Executive Bylaws:

1. Article VI, Section 7, Clause 1: Subclause xiv, is removed and subclause xv is renamed as subclause xiv.

Agreed to by a vote of _____ yeas to _____ nays on this date: _____ with _____ abstaining and _____ not present.

Michael Kish

President of the Student Government Association

Catherine Weatherwax

Vice President of the Student Government Association