

**Bill 001**  
**A Bill to Determine a Threshold for Write-in Candidates**  
**Sponsored by: Senator Schlee**  
**Co-Sponsored by: Senator Caple and Senator Decker**

***Whereas,***

The Senate Bylaws Article VII Section 4, Clause 1, outlines the Duties of the Board of Elections.

***Whereas,***

The Senate Bylaws Article VII Section 4, Clause 1, Subsection (xv) reads, “Ensure that the ballot contains slots for write-in candidates for all positions up for election,” regarding the responsibilities of the Board of Elections.

***Whereas,***

Votes for write-in candidates can often be written with an intention that is not serious, which is misrepresentative of the entire electorate.

***Whereas,***

Establishing a threshold for how many votes a write-in candidate needs to receive in order to be elected can make the write-in system more legitimate.

***Whereas,***

It is a practice of the Board of Elections to only count the votes for write-in candidates that are the exact first and last name of a person.

***Whereas,***

Clearly defining this practice of the Board of Elections would increase transparency within the Student Government Association.

***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 add Article VII, Section 4, Clause 1, Subsection (xvi) and Article VII, Section 5, Clause 5, Subsection (ii) of the Senate Bylaws to read:

Article VII, Section 4, Clause 1, Subsection xvi-

- (i) Require that a write-in candidate receive at least 5 percent of the total vote in their respective class or school in order to be elected.

Article VII, Section 5, Clause 5, Subsection ii-

- (i) A write-in vote: is a typed submission on the ballot with the exact first and last name of a person spelled correctly.

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

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Gerald Sharpe  
*President of the Student Government Association*

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Gemma del Carmen  
*Vice President of the Student Government Association*

