

SGA Bill 7-22-S

A Bill to Take a Stance Against Classroom Censorship in Tennessee Higher Education

- Whereas:** HB 2670 has been sent for Governor Lee's approval, and SB 2290, HB 2313, and SB 2298 are currently under consideration by the Tennessee State Legislature.
- Whereas:** These bills place restrictions on professors and other university employees discussing what these pieces of legislation define as "divisive concepts".
- Whereas:** Divisive concepts are defined in these bills as the discussion of racism, sexism, and other forms of discrimination among those listed.
- Whereas:** These bills would allow for legal action to be taken against professors and other university employees who discuss these "divisive concepts".
- Whereas:** These bills infringe upon the rights of professors and other university employees to exercise free speech.
- Whereas:** These restrictions cripple the ability for students to learn, understand, and discuss these vitally important topics.
- Whereas:** These bills are an existential threat to degrees such as philosophy, sociology, social work, and history which are built around discussion of these topics.
- Whereas:** The MTSU Board of Trustees has yet to take a stance on these bills which could negatively affect every student, professor, and university employee.

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED BY THE 84th CONGRESS OF THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

THAT:

- Section 1:** The Student Government Association shall stand in firm opposition against bills HB 2670/ SB 2290 and HB 2313/ SB 2298 in solidarity with our professors, university employees, and student body.

- Section 2:** The External Affairs Committee will release an official statement denouncing these bills, and calling on the MTSU Board of Trustees, MTSU Faculty Senate, and Student Governments of other Tennessee institutions of higher education to do the same.

Section 3: This statement will be sent to the MTSU Board of Trustees.

Section 4: This statement will be sent to the MTSU Faculty Senate.

Section 5: This statement will be sent to the student governments of all Tennessee institutions of higher education.

Sponsor(s): *Senator Ashton Beatty* (College of Basic and Applied Sciences)

Senator Logan Mcvay (College of Liberal Arts)

Co-Sponsor(s): *Senator Kap Paul* (College of Basic and Applied Sciences)



Speaker of the Senate



SGA President



VP of Student Affairs