

An Act to Hire Medication Control Staff for the Counseling Center

Whereas, the Tennessee Technological University Counseling Center provides essential services for the Tennessee Tech student body, **and**

Whereas, the Center currently does not have a psychiatrist or psychiatric nurse practitioner to handle psychiatric medication, **and**

Whereas, the number of students seen by the Counseling Center per academic year increased 182% between 2007/2008 and 2019/2020, **and**

Whereas, many students rely on prescription psychiatric medication in addition to counseling, **and**

Whereas, every public 4-year university in Tennessee provides medication management services except for Tennessee Tech, **and**

Whereas, students coming from other areas of the state are forced to either find an off-campus provider or travel home purely for refills, **and**

Whereas, as of 2018, Tennessee had a higher overall rate of suicide than the US average, **and**

Whereas, as of 2018, Putnam County faced a higher overall rate than the Tennessee state average, **and**

Whereas, due to the limited local resources, students often have difficulty finding psychiatric medication control in the area and risk going without, **and**

Whereas, providing psychiatric medication control for students is essential in ensuring they do not go without psychiatric medication.

NOW THEREFORE,

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF
TENNESSEE TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY THAT**

Section 1: This bill shall be known as “An Act to Hire Medication Control Staff for the Counseling Center.”

Section 2: The University budget will extend to find, at the minimum, a part-time psychiatric nurse practitioner to handle prescription psychiatric medications for Tennessee Tech students.

Section 3: Students who have chronic, long-term, or specialized needs that the Counseling Center does not have the capacity to accommodate will continue to be given referrals to off-campus providers.

Section 4: The Counseling Center will continue to offer their normal services that include a solution-focused, brief-treatment session model, psycho-education groups, and outreach programs and workshops.

Section 5: This act shall take effect immediately upon passing, the welfare of students depending on it.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Kelly Bell
Senator, College of Business

Co-Sponsor(s):

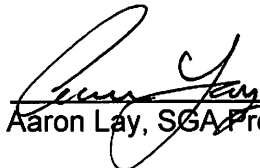
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Signed: 
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