## UNIVERSITY of HOUSTON STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Label: SGAB-61013 Date introduced: March 19th, 2025 Author(s): Speaker Cockrell Sponsor(s): Chair Hubbard, Chair Wallace, Chair Jones, Chair Jacobs, Vice Chair Luong, Sen. Chowdhury, Sen. Ledezma, President Arriaga, Vice President Craig, Chief of Staff Gonzalez Committee: Student Life Draft: Vote

## The SGA Sexual Emergency Preparedness Act

Whereas, the Student Government Association is committed to promoting student health and wellbeing;

Whereas, access to emergency contraception and condoms is essential for students to make informed and safe decisions regarding their sexual health;

Whereas, unintended pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections (STIs) can have significant impacts on students' academic and personal lives

Whereas, many students face financial and logistical barriers to obtaining emergency contraception and other sexual health resources

Whereas, university health services and local organizations support initiatives that expand access to sexual health resources;

Whereas, the SGA has the capacity to provide discreet and accessible distribution of these resources in designated SGA offices;

## Therefore, be it enacted by the Student Government Association of the University of Houston:

That the Student Government Association effectively establishes the Cougar Safe Initiative (CSI), under the oversight of the Chief of Staff's Office, in coordination with the Senate Committee on Student Life and the Director of Outreach.

Be it further enacted, that the program will:

- 1. Ensure that emergency contraception (Plan B) and condoms are stocked in paid-member SGA offices.
- 2. Maintain a discreet and accessible system for students to obtain these resources.
- 3. Conduct outreach and educational campaigns on sexual health and safety.
- 4. Collaborate with university health services and external organizations to ensure resource sustainability.

Be it further enacted, that each SGA executive office and designated senate offices shall maintain a supply of emergency contraception and condoms in a private and accessible manner, ensuring students can access these resources without requiring direct interaction outside of the office-holder, if preferred;

Be it further enacted, that the Chief of Staff, in collaboration with the President, shall oversee the budget allocation for this initiative, securing funding through SGA appropriations, university partnerships, and external sponsorships, while prioritizing cost efficiency through bulk purchasing and institutional collaborations;

Be it further enacted, that the Director of Outreach, in conjunction with the Senate Committee on Student Life, shall develop educational materials and events to promote awareness of available resources, including proper usage and access to additional health services;

**Be it further enacted**, that the Chief of Staff's Office shall reports to the Senate Committee on Student Life, detailing inventory status, student utilization data (non-identifiable), and any implementation challenges to ensure transparency and accountability; Be it further enacted, that an annual review shall be conducted to assess program effectiveness, with adjustments made as necessary to enhance accessibility and impact;

Be it further enacted, that this bill shall take effect at the beginning of the next academic semester upon passage by the SGA Senate and signature by the Student Body President;

LET IT BE ENACTED THAT the Student Government Association of the University of Houston establishes the SGA Sexual Emergency Preparedness Act, ensuring that all students have access to essential sexual health resources through SGA offices, with oversight from the Chief of Staff's Office, the Senate Committee on Student Life, and the Director of Outreach, thereby promoting student well-being, safety, and informed decision-making.

Tavagoh Cockrell Speaker of the Senate Date of Senate Approval: 3/24/25

Diego Arriaga President of the SGA Date of Presidential Approval: <u>3/3//2025</u>