

**SENATE ACT 2023-24-01**

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| Date Presented: April 29th, 2024 | **THE APRIL 26TH ACT** |
| Authorship: | Bria Combs, SGA PresidentCade Bachman, SGA Chief of Staff |
| Sponsorship: | Daphne Galloway, SGA Director of Communications |
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WHEREAS, on Friday April 26th, with the consent of campus leadership, tens of police officers stormed the Tivoli quad, and arrested students exercising their free speech rights to protest for the end of the war in Gaza and for CU Denver to divest from Israel, and;

WHEREAS, for over two hours, law enforcement agents had students sitting on their knees waiting to be placed onto a prison bus or into the back of a police car. In a powerful display of community, students surrounded the formation of police officers locked arm in arm, showcasing that this police crackdown was a calculated and brutal removal that was undertaken against the wishes of the community at large, and;

WHEREAS, these protests were unequivocally peaceful, and were not disrupting the ability of students, staff, and faculty to live, learn, and work on campus. The only campus policy they violated was a local camping ban, and;

WHEREAS, the reaction from campus leadership and law enforcement was significantly dissonant from the behavior of the students, and completely undermines the ability of students to exercise their academic and free-speech rights on campus, and;

WHEREAS, Universities are intended to be the center of society’s most engaging and divisive contemporary debates. By using the excuse of a “camping ban” to justify a brutish police crackdown, campus leadership has also undermined the intellectual community of Auraria campus by infringing, controlling, and determining the ways in which these important political and intellectual debates can manifest on campus, and;

WHEREAS, the CU Denver SGA is proposing the following next steps to protect the students who were wrongfully arrested, to restore the freedom of expression on campus, and to ensure that the events of April 26th are memorandized and remembered, and;

WHEREAS, the April 26th Act contains 4 legislative actions, 2 resolutions and 2 bills, all intended to respond to a different aspect of the events of the day and the necessary restorative processes, and;

WHEREAS, SR 23-24-00X directly rebukes campus leadership for the decision to endorse a police crackdown on the CU Denver campus, for violating their students' rights to freely express themselves, and for taking an active role in the arrest of students who were peacefully protesting, and;

WHEREAS, SR 23-24-00Y calls for any students who were arrested to be criminally immune from any charges resulting from the protests that took place on April 26th, and to be immune from any University conduct proceedings, and;

WHEREAS, SB 23-24-0AB enshrines a new pathway for the approval of SGA social media posts, to ensure that the information available on SGA’s social media is accessible, accurate, transparent, and reflective of the student experience, and;

WHEREAS, SR 23-24-00Z calls for the events of April 26th to be documented via a website that, while protecting the identities of those affected, will showcase the police crackdown that took place on campus, its negative impacts on student expression, and the further actions that took place during the course of the past week’s protests, and;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the CU Denver SGA adopts the April 26th Act and its 4 associated legislative items: SR 23-24-00X, SR 23-24-00Y, SB 23-24-0AB, SR 23-24-00Z, and SR 23-24-00W

Ratified by the Senate:

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| Bria Combs, *President* | Savannah Brooks, *Vice President* |


**SENATE RESOLUTION 2023-24-00X**

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| Date Presented: April 29th, 2024 | **A RESOLUTION DENOUNCING THE DECISIONS OF CAMPUS LEADERSHIP ON APRIL 26TH, 2024** |
| Authorship: | Bria Combs, SGA PresidentCade Bachman, SGA Chief of Staff |
| Sponsorship: | Daphne Galloway, SGA Director of Communications |

WHEREAS, Universities not only serve a role as a place of learning, but also as hotbeds of political discussion and centers for the development of ideas and debates, and;

WHEREAS, The decision to disrupt the protest led by the Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) is also fundamentally a disruption of the discussion of arguably the single greatest contemporary political debate, and;

WHEREAS, Disrupting this protest by imposing a mass arrest has greater impact on students, and their ability to learn than any actions that had been taken by the protestors up until that point, and;

WHEREAS, By conducting a mass arrest, the leadership of the Auraria campus has chosen to keep students out of the classroom and make students unsure of how they can or cannot interact with the various important discussions on campus. This had a far greater impact than any actions led by the protestors, who were simply camping outside on the Tivoli Quad and demonstrating for what they believed in, and;

WHEREAS, Campus leadership allowed the student body to experience these impacts under the guise of student safety and that the protestors violated the camping ban; however, the AHEC camping ban that students are accused of violating does not denote an arrest as the specific punishment for the infraction. Therefore, there were other pathways to remediation that did not necessitate bringing a substantial police presence on to campus and arresting students, and;

WHEREAS, It is incredibly disheartening as students and leaders, that Auraria Campus and CU Denver, purported places of learning, have demonstrated themselves as willing to surround protesting students peacefully executing their free speech rights with officers clad in riot gear.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the CU Denver SGA denounces the disproportionately harsh decisions made by campus leadership to crackdown on yesterday’s protests.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, That the CU Denver SGA implores campus leadership to exhaust every peaceful and non-invasive attempt at remediation before having peaceful protestors on campus arrested.

Ratified by the Senate:

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| Bria Combs, *President* | Savannah Brooks, *Vice President* |



**SENATE RESOLUTION 2023-24-00Y**

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| Date Presented: April 29th, 2024 | **A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE IMMUNITY OF STUDENTS ARRESTED ON APRIL 26TH** |
| Authorship: | Bria Combs, SGA PresidentCade Bachman, SGA Chief of Staff |
| Sponsorship: | Daphne Galloway, Director of Communications |

WHEREAS, the decisions made by campus leadership resulted in the direct arrest of 12 CU Denver students, and;

WHEREAS, these arrests keep students out of the classroom and significantly limit the ability of affected students to succeed academically. Furthermore, no student should have their academic future jeopardized for peacefully utilizing their First Amendment rights, and;

WHEREAS, in recognition of the disproportionate response these students faced and in an effort to regain the freedom of expression on the Auraria campus, these students should not face legal or academic consequences for their actions, and;

WHEREAS, this will allow all affected students to continue succeeding in the classroom and to continue peacefully exercising their guaranteed political freedoms. It’s important that the rest of the process that responds to the events of April 26th, as well as any response to future protests, emphasize student success, the importance of the student voice, and the benefits of peaceful demonstrations, and;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the CU Denver SGA calls on the campus leadership of the Auraria campus to ensure that no legal or academic charges should be brought against the students who were arrested on April 26th for charges brought specifically in relation to peaceful participation in the protest. This call will not extend to other crimes committed on campus such as the defacement of campus property.

Ratified by the Senate:

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| Bria Combs, *President* | Savannah Brooks, *Vice President* |



**SENATE BILL 2023-24-0AB**

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| Date Presented: April 29th, 2024 | **A BILL TO ENSURE THE ACCURACY OF SGA SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS** |
| Authorship: | Bria Combs, SGA PresidentCade Bachman, SGA Chief of Staff |
| Sponsorship: | Daphne Galloway, SGA Director of Communications |

WHEREAS, the initial statement released by SGA was a woefully inadequate response to the events of the day, the trauma experienced by the student community, and the reality that a brutal police crackdown had just concluded right outside our office, and;

WHEREAS, this tone-deaf response was still released, even though it was authored prior to the arrival of Denver Police Department troopers in riot gear on the Tivoli quad. It was not updated after events of the day prior to its release, and;

WHEREAS, the resulting statement led to further pain, trauma, and confusion among the CU Denver student community, and as a whole was insufficient to meet the needs of the student body and reflect their experiences, and:

WHEREAS, the CU Denver SGA recognizes an imperative need to adapt and improve its governance and advocacy to reflect the experiences and needs of the students body, and;

WHEREAS, one direct way to do this is to ensure that more safety structures exist within the SGA to monitor whether or not posted information is as accurate as possible, and;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the SGA Executive Team must be notified before any posts are made to the various SGA social media accounts up to thirty minutes prior to any posting, and;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, if the SGA Executive Team does not respond to the message notifying them of an impending social media post within the thirty-minute time frame, then the Director of Communications has the discretion of whether or not to post a given message.

FINALLY BE IT RESOLVED, that the SGA Director of Communications has the sole authority to make posts to the SGA social media accounts, unless both they and the executive team authorize another member of SGA to make social media posts.

Ratified by the Senate:

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| Bria Combs, *President* | Savannah Brooks, *Vice President* |



**SENATE RESOLUTION 2023-24-00Z**

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| Date Presented: April 29th, 2024 | **A BILL TO CREATE A PUBLIC WEBSITE DOCUMENTING THE EVENTS OF APRIL 26th** |
| Authorship: | Bria Combs, SGA PresidentCade Bachman, SGA Chief of Staff |
| Sponsorship: | Daphne Galloway, SGA Director of Communications |

WHEREAS, the events of April 26th are an important reminder of the strength of our student community, the value of free speech, and the fragility of the intellectual culture on campus, and;

WHEREAS, it is important to document drastic infractions of the freedoms of speech, such as this one, in order to be reminded that there are always better, more human, and more peaceful solutions to disputes such as the protests led by SDS.

WHEREAS, the massive police presence, the students who were arrested one by one, and the willful ignorance of student’s free speech rights impacts the legacy and reputation of the Auraria Campus, and it is important to create permanent structures that caution current and future leaders of the Auraria campus against making the same mistakes, and;

WHEREAS, this information will be housed via a website that will be publicly available to all students, and will contain interviews, news feeds, live footage, and news reports from April 26th, and;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the CU Denver SGA will collaborate with campus leadership to create an independent website that houses the history of the events of April 26th and its impact on students, and;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, the CU Denver SGA will ensure that the website that is created includes the complete and un-edited live news feed of the police crackdown and ensuing arrests that took place on the Tivoli Quad, and;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, in addition to the complete live-news feed, the website will also include fully published news articles from local Colorado-based news organizations that summarize the events that occurred, and;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, the website must also include interviews from those who experienced the events on campus that day, while also being sure to protect the identities of those interviewed, and;

FINALLY BE IT RESOLVED, the website will be continuously updated and monitored to ensure that its information most accurately reflects the events of April 26th and any further actions that may be taken against the protestors by campus leaders and law enforcement.

Ratified by the Senate:

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