

**ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF  
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FIFTY-FOURTH SESSION**

**BILL NO. 54-06**

**INTRODUCED BY: Donovan**

**SECONDED BY: Brenner**

**A BILL TO: Financially Assist Student Survivors of Sexual Assault**

**THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY ENACT:**

WHEREAS, Sexual Assault on college campuses has been recognized by and large as an epidemic; and,

WHEREAS, Sharing an academic setting with one's attacker(s) can make the learning environment a hostile one; and,

WHEREAS, Students who are sexually assaulted face costs not shared by the average student, including financial costs due to the need to escape one's attacker, or emotional costs resulting from coping with trauma, or physical costs incurred by recovering from assault; and,

WHEREAS, Individuals who have been sexually assaulted should be entitled to the compassion of the institutions to which they are subject, regardless of said individual's sexual history, **or whether or not the victim has reported the incident or filed a Title IX claim; and,**

WHEREAS, The MSU Sexual Assault Program and its agents are involved in assisting survivors, thus are familiar with the predicaments of survivors and the resources available to them, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, The Associated Students of Michigan State University establishes a fund, to be named "the Hughey Fund," with the purpose of assisting sexual assault survivors with the costs of being a survivor, which fund shall be operated by the panel according to the limitations and practices described in Appendix A; Be it further

RESOLVED, The initial allocation to this fund shall be \$5,000 from the General Fund to be used for trial disbursements to students and testing the infrastructure established in service of this bill; Be it further

RESOLVED, That the Associated Students of Michigan State shall reach out to the greater MSU community and its neighbors to raise funds for the creation of an endowment to guarantee its longevity and shall complete the fundraising at the end of the Fall 2017 semester, and the fund shall remain open to future allocations from the assembly in this term and in all future terms; additionally, the General Assembly will match up to \$20,000 in donations by the end of the Fall 2017 semester; Be it further

RESOLVED, changes to the structure of this panel, its methods, and generally codified practices will be started by the Policy Committee or the panel itself and, upon a majority decision on policy change being made by the Panel, the Policy Committee shall be responsible for ratification through majority vote.

**INTRODUCED ON** 9/28/17

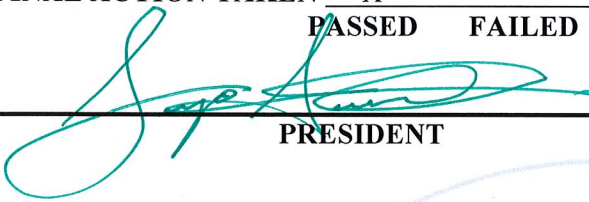
**REFERRED TO** General Assembly **COMMITTEE** Finance

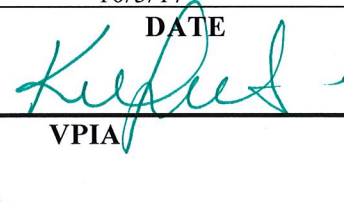
ON 9/28/17

SPECIAL ACTION TAKEN Sent to GA DATE Oct.05.2017

COMMITTEE ACTION X 14-1-0 Sep.28.2017  
**PASSED FAILED VOTE DATE**

FINAL ACTION TAKEN X 39-2-0 10/5/17  
**PASSED FAILED VOTE DATE**

  
**PRESIDENT**

  
**VPIA**



## APPENDIX A: Concerning the structure of the Hughey Fund, eligibility, and allocations.

### STRUCTURE OF THE PANEL:

All money allocated in this bill will be allocated to a panel of counselors employed by MSU's Title IX office. The panel shall consist of three counselors and one alternate. The alternate shall fulfill the role of any panelist in the event of an inability to perform their role, or if any panelist has an applicant as a patient, so that the relationship between survivor and counselor is never complicated with money. A majority decision of the panel will be final and there shall be no mechanism of appeal.

### ALLOCATIONS:

All applications processes must be started by a counselor to be eligible for consideration: in other words, a student can't walk into a counselor's office for the first time and ask for money. Instead, the counselor must recognize a need, and offer to help them apply for aid from the fund. The panel will be able to use the Student Accounts office to make direct cash payments to students to cover costs, or to make third-party payments on behalf of students. Which method is used will be at the discretion of the panel. No student shall be eligible for more than one allocation of funds per academic year, and the maximum single amount per student shall be \$1,500. There will be regular allocations back and forth between student accounts and this fund to maintain certainty that all is working as it should and that payments meet expectations in terms of amount, recipient, and timeline.

### ELIGIBILITY AND PRACTICES:

Any undergraduate student of the University is considered eligible for funds; however, students who were assaulted during their time as students or while on campus will be given priority over students who were assaulted prior to their time as a Spartan if a decision between the two must be made. Employees of the Title IX office and people who have direct familial relations to University employees in the Title IX office will not be eligible for funds.

The panel will collect data about all allocations, including how much is allocated, how many students are serviced, what kind of services are provided, what percentage of applications, if any, are rejected, and the student's impression of the fund's impact.

Votes and discussion between panel members on disbursement may occur online or in person, through text or verbal correspondence, but a record of the decision and the circumstances surrounding it must be kept. No names or other identifying attributes will be kept in these records; each survivor will be given an alternate title in their application to protect their anonymity. The student shall, however, be expected to agree that the details of their case may need to be discussed as their counselor sees fit with only those members of the panel to best advocate for the student's needs and plead their case.

A survivor's counselor shall act as their advocate through the process, helping them to fill out the application, and advocating for the student by answering any questions and making any necessary clarifications on the case for both student and panel alike.