

**ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF  
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
SIXTY-FIRST SESSION**



**BILL NO. 61-48**

**INTRODUCED BY: Jaafar (JMC)**

**SECONDED BY: Sparks (CSS)**

**CONTRIBUTORS: Freshman Class Council, W. Kuhl (FCC Member), K. Harding (VPIA), Dr. Brian Johnson, Lucas (JMC), Rodriguez (RCAH)**

**A BILL TO: Advocate for the Implementation of Early Start Programs Across All Colleges on Campus to Further Support First-Generation and Minority Students.**

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

**WHEREAS,** Many first-generation and minority status freshmen face challenges in finding a sense of belonging at a large university, so providing these students with necessary academic resources and allowing early engagement before the semester begins is a crucial step in helping students feel more acclimated and establish a strong connection to the campus community; and,

**WHEREAS,** The Early Start Program in James Madison College actively supports and empowers first-generation and minority status freshmen, helping them feel more connected and confident as they transition into college life by offering incoming students the opportunity to move in a week before the semester starts, enroll in an accredited course that counts toward their major, and engage with faculty<sup>1</sup>; and,

**WHEREAS,** Students that are selected via an interview process are continuously invited to Early Start events throughout the year, which fosters a continued connection and support system; and,

**WHEREAS,** Although still a relatively new initiative, the Early Start Program has already demonstrated significant success at James Madison College demonstrated by students in the program consistently reporting that it has played a key role in fostering strong and meaningful connections with faculty and peers through networking opportunities and multicultural events; and,

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<sup>1</sup> <https://jmc.msu.edu/diversity/esp.html>

**WHEREAS**, Across the university, there is a noticeable gap in programs specifically designed to support first-generation students, with few initiatives tailored to the unique needs of individual colleges. While some colleges offer limited resources, very few provide a program as comprehensive and intensive as the Early Start Program, which stands out for its rigorous structure and deep involvement in preparing students for academic success; therefore be it,

**RESOLVED**, That the Associated Students of Michigan State University shall advocate for the widespread implementation of Early Start programs across colleges within MSU by collaborating with university administration and in particularly the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion departments of each college; and let it be further,

**RESOLVED**, That the Associated Students of Michigan State University shall also encourage other campus programs to use the Early Start program as a model for enhancing their own initiatives, especially since many existing programs currently lack the extensive support and structure that Early Start provides for collective efforts to support underrepresented students.

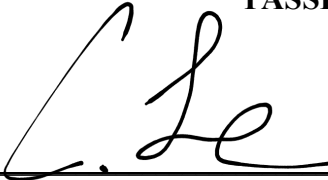
**INTRODUCED ON** 12.05.2024

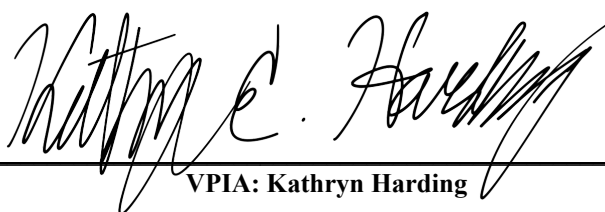
**REFERRED TO** Academic **COMMITTEE ON** 11.21.2024

**SPECIAL ACTION TAKEN** Added to GA Agenda **DATE** 11.21.2024

**COMMITTEE ACTION** Quorum Not Reached 11.21.2024  
**PASSED FAILED VOTE DATE**

**FINAL ACTION TAKEN** X Voice Majority 12.05.2024  
**PASSED FAILED VOTE DATE**

  
**PRESIDENT: Connor Le**

  
**VPIA: Kathryn Harding**