

University of Memphis Fraternity and Sorority Community
Unite to Challenge TN Rep. John DeBerry's Misguided Legislation

We, the University of Memphis fraternity and sorority community, comprised of the Interfraternity Council, National Pan-Hellenic Council, and Panhellenic Council, are philosophically and professionally opposed to HB 2042, proposed by Representative DeBerry, which would effectively prohibit fraternities and sororities from operating at public institutions in the state of Tennessee. In light of recent events within the national fraternity and sorority community, we acknowledge that certain actions must be taken to reform our community.

Fraternities and sororities were founded on the principles of scholarship, service, leadership and fellowship. For over 70 years, fraternities and sororities at the University of Memphis have exemplified these values. Scholastically, our community has consistently achieved higher academic standards, as proven by our higher grade point average and graduation rates in comparison to non-affiliated students. At a chapter level, our organizations provide opportunities for group study and mentorship programs for students struggling academically.

In the same manner, our chapters place a high value on positively impacting the campus and surrounding communities through service. The University of Memphis chapter of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital's "Up 'til Dawn" has consistently raised the most funds of any chapter nationwide; of the annual totals donated to St. Jude, fraternities and sororities on campus raise more than half of the funds. During the 2016-17 academic year, the fraternity and sorority community committed numerous hours to serving communities within the city of Memphis.

Nationally, fraternity and sorority leaders are the driving force behind campus involvement and engagement. At the University of Memphis, the members of fraternities and sororities make up only 10% of traditional undergraduate students, but account for over half of Orientation Guides, Frosh Camp Counselors, and Student Government Association members.

At the root of it all, brotherhood and sisterhood is the foundation from which all of our other values stem. As a home away from home and a community of encouragement, people from all backgrounds can come together to build upon a legacy established more than a century ago by our Founders. A bill of this nature deprives future generations of students of the opportunity to engage in the transformational experience provided by fraternities and sororities. For these reasons, we adamantly oppose HB 2042 and implore that others will voice their opposition alongside us by contacting their State legislators.

"Coming together is the beginning. Staying together is progress. Working together is success."

- Henry Ford

In unity,

University of Memphis Fraternity and Sorority Chapter Presidents



Division of Student Affairs

Student Leadership
& Involvement