Legett Basement Bill

Whereas (1): The Texas A&M University Residence Hall Association is the voice of all on-campus students; and,

Whereas (2): K.K. Legett Hall is the oldest living residence hall at Texas A&M, having been built in 1911, just 35 years after A&M opened its doors; and,

Whereas (3): The basement of Legett Hall was historically used as living and recreational space by the residents of Legett Hall; and,

Whereas (4): In 2001, the Department of Residence Life renovated the basement floor and began using it for office space; and,

Whereas (5): Starting in 2008, the basement space was used by the College of Liberal Arts to house the Women and Gender Studies Department; and,

Whereas (6): The on-campus community has lost three (3) residence halls, totaling 514 residents since the most recent residence hall expansion; and,

Whereas (7): Texas A&M University enrollment at College Station has grown from 40,492 in 1989 to 45,933 in 2009; and,

Whereas (8): Due to the increase in enrollment and the decrease of available housing, the percent of students living on-campus has fallen from roughly 21% to 17%; and,

Whereas (9): This decrease in available housing has forced the Department of Residence Life to turn away an estimated 500 prospective residents in the fall of 2009 due to lack of space; and,

Whereas (10): After Spring 2011 the on-campus community will lose 600 beds with the demolition of Crocker, Moore, and McInnis Halls; and,

Whereas (11): The basement of K.K. Legett Hall has rooms that will allow for approximately fifty (50) more students to live on campus; and,
Whereas (12): The basement of Legett Hall meets the accessibility standards set by the Americans with Disabilities Act; and,

Whereas (13): K.K. Legett Hall is the most requested hall in its price range, has one of the highest retention rates of all on-campus halls, and its residents have one of the highest GPR averages of on-campus residence halls; and,

Whereas (14): Legett Hall has a tradition of developing successful students who give back to the on-campus community and Texas A&M; and,

Whereas (15): Allowing Legett residents and the Department of Residence Life to regain use of the basement of Legett Hall for student living and study/programming space will benefit Legett Hall residents and the entire on-campus community.

Therefore
Let it be
Enacted (1): The Residence Hall Association requests that the basement of K.K. Legett Hall be returned to the use and control of the Department of Residence Life and the residents of Legett Hall; and,

Let it be
Further
Enacted (2): The Residence Hall Association requests that the basement once again be used for housing space for students and programming areas for the residents of Legett Hall and the on-campus community; and,

Let it be
Further
Enacted (3): If this bill is passed it will be signed by the President of RHA and forwarded to the Department of Residence Life, the Department of Student Life, and the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs; and,

Let it be
Further
Enacted (4): The executive team of the Residence Hall Association, as the voice of the on-campus community, will seek to see that these actions are carried out by the administration of Texas A&M University.