

ACT A-16-17
The University of Alabama
21st Student Senate 2016-2017

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Endorsements: American Association of University Women- Alabama, University of Alabama Feminist Caucus, University of Alabama Unite for Reproductive and Gender Equality

**AN ACT TO INVESTIGATE IMPROVING STUDENT SEXUAL
HEALTH**

Be it enacted by the Senate of the Student Government Association assembled.

Section 1. Findings - The Senate finds the following:

1. Sexual transmitted infections, hereafter referred to as STIs, are ailments primarily transmitted through sexual contact.
2. STIs have a wide range of symptoms, but sometimes, no symptoms or signs of infection are present, causing delay in their discovery time.
3. University students are especially susceptible to STIs, which makes early recognition of infection vital to the general health of the student body.
4. The University's Student Health Center provides confidential STI testing on campus with no appointment necessary.
5. However, STI testing at the Student Health Center for Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, HIV, Syphilis, and Trichomoniasis currently costs \$250.00.
6. After STI tests are conducted, students are billed a co-pay directly to their student account.
7. Not only is there an obvious financial disincentive for students who can't afford these tests, but some students may not get tested for fear of having to explain the charge later on.
8. Currently, the University of Alabama ranks 74th on the 2016 Trojan Sexual Health Report Card, dragged down by the costs of STI testing, even falling behind other SEC schools such as the University of South Carolina (61st), the University of Kentucky (53rd), Vanderbilt University (47th), the University of Missouri (34th), the University of Florida (13th), and the University of Georgia (1st).
9. It is appropriate to seek and consider low- and no-cost options for STI testing at the Student Health Center to help promote the general health of

the student body.

Section 2. Directions to the Vice President of Student Affairs - The Vice President of Student Affairs is hereby directed to work with the Student Health Center to determine the feasibility of offering free or reduced cost STI testing.

Section 3. Directions to the Vice President of Student Affairs- The Vice President of Student Affairs is hereby directed to establish a “Sexual Health” committee to collaborate with the Student Health Center to assess the need and potential operational structure of the testing program; e.g. whether such a program could be run as a consistent clinical service or would need to be a program run once a week, month, etc.

Section 4. Directions to the Vice President of Student Affairs - The Vice President of Student Affairs is hereby directed to work with the committee, which was established in section 3, to create and deliver a progress report to the Senate no later than April 1st, 2017. The report should include, but is not limited to, a conclusion on the feasibility of a free or reduced cost STI testing program, an estimate of potential costs associated with such program, how the program may be structured, and alternatives to promoting sexual health.

Section 5. Effective Date - This Act shall take effect upon its signature by the President or its otherwise becoming law.

Section 6. Distribution of Copies - Dr. Stuart Bell, President of the University of Alabama; Lillian Roth, SGA President; Dalton Beasley, SGA Vice President of Student Affairs; Peyton Shepard, Editor-in-Chief of *The Crimson White*; TJ Parks, Director of Senate Communications.