

Resolution R-26-18

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

23rd SGA Senate 2018-2019

Authors: Senator Cara A. Clay

Co-Sponsors: Senator Harris Bolus, Senator Jason Rothfarb, Senator Grace Burnett

Endorsements: Amber Chan, President of Students for Fair Labor; Amber Scales, Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion; Clay Martinson, Vice-President of Student Affairs

A RESOLUTION TO PLACE *VIVE LA FETE* ON NOTICE

Whereas, Vive la Fete is a baby clothing company that is a logo licensee with the University of Alabama.

Whereas, Students for Fair Labor (SFFL) has found that *Vive la Fete*, has participated in several unfair labor practices.

Whereas, Mujeres Transformando, a community organization in El Salvador, has notified SFFL that over 300 women, who hand embroider our school's logo onto baby clothing, have experienced wage theft, retaliation against organizing, and discrimination.

Whereas, These women are called "home workers" because rather than sewing in a factory, they sew these pieces at home, largely after completing their other jobs and domestic duties.

Whereas, Despite the minimum wage set at \$300 a month, these workers are only earning a third of that. When workers organized to demand their fair minimum wage, they faced acute backlash by management. From having their orders minimized, to facing intimidation, harassment, and even targeted discrimination towards workers' children with disabilities, these women have had to endure unacceptable conditions.

Whereas, These women only earn about two dollars per piece despite the complexity of the embroidery, and the 9-15 hours of labor that it takes to make one piece. They often have to have their children help them to complete orders on time.

Whereas, In their assessment from September 17, 2018, *Worker Rights Consortium* states that, “both the violations of university codes of conduct in this case – particularly in the area of the underpayment of wages – and the resistance to remedying these violations...are some of the worst that the WRC has found to date in the production of university-licensed apparel.”

Whereas, *Vive la Fete*'s human rights violation do not comply with our university's pledge to “act with fairness, integrity and respect; promote equity and inclusion; foster individual and civic responsibility; and strive for excellence in all [we] do.”

Whereas, SGA should support placing *Vive la Fete* on notice under our licensing agreement and in the hopes that they pay these workers the \$1.2 million in back pay they are owed, provide them health benefits, and hold their supervisors accountable.

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Be it further resolved, that the copies of this resolution be sent to Dr. Stuart Bell, President of the University of Alabama; Dr. Vikki Vandiver, Dean of the School of Social Work; Bernadette Chavira-Trull, Director of the Supestore; Jim Barron, Senior buyer of the Supestore; Price McGiffert, President of the Student Government Association; the Crimson White