

# **A Resolution for the Student Government Association to Recommend a Jury Duty Deferment for Indiana Resident Students**

Student Government Association  
Butler University  
March 4, 2015

Author: Austin Del Priore, *SGA Vice President of Administration*  
Sponsor: Robert Gale, *SGA Council on Presidential Affairs*

**WHEREAS**, Butler University is a higher education institution dedicated to the continuous improvement of Indiana citizens through higher education opportunities and community leadership; and

**WHEREAS**, Butler University is one of over 45 public and private institutions of higher education in the State of Indiana; and

**WHEREAS**, full-time Indiana resident students at vocational, community, and public/private universities—including professional and graduates schools—are summoned for jury duty service; and

**WHEREAS**, while service of jury duty is a civic duty underpinning the free and just judicial system of the United States of America, the reduced instructional time resulting from jury duty summons/service is detrimental to the educational experience of university students; and

**WHEREAS**, jury duty service in the State of Indiana may currently be deferred under extreme hardship or inconvenience, but not explicitly due to full-time college student status and potential academic absences; and

**WHEREAS**, the Indiana Jury Rules, as maintained by the Indiana State Supreme Court do not currently contain a provision providing full-time university students a flexible jury duty deferment option; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of Michigan, through HB 4570 (Public Act 10, effective: February 18, 2014) signed into law by Gov. Rick Snyder, provided a deferment option to full-time university students that allowed jury duty service to be deferred until the conclusion of the academic year upon proof of academic status;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Student Government Association of Butler University here assembled:**

- (1) Recommends that the Indiana Jury Rules of the Indiana State Supreme Court be amended to include a deferment option that would allow an Indiana resident full-time university student summoned for jury duty to defer their service until the close of the current academic year if the student shows evidence that the term of service will conflict with academic obligations.