

CONGRESS RESOLUTION NO. 08-10-15

Sponsor(s): Luke Fields (SBP); Dan Sloat (SBVP); Andrew Hahn (VPC); Robin Featherston (SBT)
Co-Sponsor(s): Nicole Hakes (Willkie), Jim Snaza (Off-Campus), Mike Coleman (Teter)
Filed on Oct. 16, 2008. Considered on 10/21/08 with a final disposition of Unanimous Approval.

**RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE PURSUIT OF STATE LEGISLATION ENACTING A
SALES TAX-FREE WEEKEND IN THE STATE OF INDIANA**

- 1 **WHEREAS**, Textbooks purchases make up a large expenditure for IU students each semester; and,
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3 **WHEREAS**, the National Association of College Stores Student Watch 2008 Report estimates that
4 college students spent an average of \$702 on required course materials during the 2006-2007 academic
5 year; and,
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7 **WHEREAS**, The IU Student Association has been pursuing the enactment of legislation providing tax
8 free textbooks for the past three years; and,
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10 **WHEREAS**, The previous legislation supported by the IU Student Association related to tax free
11 textbooks and was defeated in the Indiana General Assembly due to lack of political support; and,
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13 **WHEREAS**, Alabama, Arizona, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Maryland, Massachusetts,
14 Missouri, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas,
15 Vermont, Virginia, and Washington, DC, have each enacted weekends or weeks during which the state
16 sales tax is suspended; and,
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18 **WHEREAS**, These initiatives have been widely successful and popular in the areas of the country that
19 they have been enacted; and,
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21 **WHEREAS**, The enactment of a sales tax-free weekend in the state of Indiana would benefit not just
22 students, but other Indiana residents who would purchase school supplies or clothing during such a
23 weekend; and,
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25 **WHEREAS**, Such sales tax-free weekends would also help support businesses insofar as the states who
26 have such weekends see a large increase in consumer spending during the weekend; and,
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28 **WHEREAS**, There appears to exist the potential for a greater political coalition, and therefore a greater
29 chance of success, for legislation enacting a sales tax-free weekend as opposed to legislation specifically
30 regarding the suspension of the sales tax for textbooks; and,
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32 **WHEREAS**, Jill DeLuna (Director for Legislative and Governmental Relations), Torrey Kittle (Chief
33 Policy Adviser), and Andrew Hahn (Vice President for Congress) have held a preliminary meeting with
34 State Senator Vi Simpson to discuss how a proposal for such a weekend could be enacted, why
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37 previous tax free textbook legislation failed, and the process that must be undertaken to have the best
38 chance of success;

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40 **THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED**, That the Student Body Congress, as representatives of the IU
41 student body, support the following proposal to institute two sales tax-free weekends in the State of
42 Indiana, subject to the particularities of draft legislation to be completed by State Senator Simpson’s
43 Office and transmitted to IUSA:

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45 “That the State of Indiana institute a sales tax free weekend near the beginning of each semester of
46 school in Indiana. Specifically, the items below are to be exempt from the sales tax if sold between
47 12:01 a.m. on the last Friday of August and 11:59 p.m. the following Sunday and sold between
48 12:01 a.m. on the first Friday of January and 11:59 p.m. the following Sunday:

- 49 1. Clothing with a sales price of \$100 or less per item
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- 51 2. Computers with a sales price of \$1500 or less per item
- 52 3. School supplies with a sales price of \$100 or less per item
- 53 4. School art supplies with a sales price of \$100 or less per item
- 54 5. Textbooks if bought by a full-time or part time student enrolled at a private or public college
55 or university that is located in Indiana (Person must present a valid student identification
56 card to receive tax exemption)”

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58 **THEREFORE LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the Student Body Congress give its full
59 support to the IUSA Department for Legislative and Governmental Relations, with support from other
60 IUSA Executives and Officers, to pursue a lobbying campaign aimed at having this proposal passed. This
61 lobbying campaign will involve coordination with the major colleges and universities of the State of
62 Indiana, along with other interested parties such as retailers and meetings with individual members of the
63 Indiana General Assembly.

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