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## **A joint statement by Purdue Student Government Senators David and Stewart on Chick-fil-A coming to Purdue's campus**

West Lafayette, IN - After the article by Dave Bangert for the Journal & Courier on Monday evening regarding the Purdue University Senate's new resolution and intent to vote in October, which included statements from the Purdue Student Government's President, we felt it necessary to offer clarification on the arrival of a Chick-fil-A to Purdue's campus in addition to the University's official statement released Friday morning.

To begin, it should be noted that the views expressed by Student Body President Jo Boileau are his own personal opinions and do not reflect those of the Purdue Student Government as a whole. It is the official position of the Purdue Student Government, per Resolution 18-26 of the Student Senate, that we fully support a Chick-fil-A on campus. President Boileau has acknowledged this and has no intention of undermining the Purdue Student Government's position in favor of his personal views.

Next, and to the relief of many students who support this measure, Chick-fil-A will still be coming to Purdue. Plans have been set in motion and are already well underway. The University Senate's vote in October, while we respect their concerns and their right to address such topics, should have no impact with the restaurant chain opening a location at the new Third Street Suites North. In compliance with state and federal law, as well as their own values, Chick-fil-A does not discriminate in its hiring or serving practices. In fact, the restaurant provides some of the best and most friendly customer service in its industry - one of the many reasons the student body, and ourselves, want to see this restaurant on our campus.

Additionally, we want to emphasize that a clear majority of Purdue students—not to mention faculty, staff, and alumni—want to see a Chick-fil-A on campus. In a survey conducted last year by the Purdue Student Government, nearly 93 percent of over 4,300 respondents expressed support for bringing a Chick-fil-A to campus. As of Friday morning, nearly 3,500 individuals have signed a Change.org petition urging the administration to bring the restaurant to campus with fewer than 100 signatories on a similar petition opposing the move. Acting against the clear and overwhelming wishes of the student body would be a poor display of governance on the part of the Purdue Student Government.

We would also like to address the point made that our campus currently struggles with food insecurity. This is a serious and important problem that ought to be addressed. That being said, bringing Chick-fil-A to campus will have no impact one way or another on this problem. It will allow for more food options in a market where more options are needed. In a central campus location, Chick-fil-A will provide easy access to food for students living in University Residences and places high quality food within walking distance of academic campus. We should also note that the new Chick-fil-A will provide more employment opportunities for students on campus.

Lastly, we would like to emphasize that companies take political and religious positions frequently. It would be difficult to live in the modern world without taking advantage of products made by people or organizations we disagree with. Companies like Papa John's, Jimmy John's, and Subway have had executives display behaviors many of us would disagree with, yet they remain popular food options here at Purdue. The goal in bringing a Chick-fil-A to campus is to expand our food options in a way students have wanted for a long time.

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