

WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY
STUDENT GOVERNMENT
S.R. 9

A Resolution to Support the Passage of the TREAT Act

Fall 2020

November 6, 2020	Introduced by Judiciary Co-Chair Ethan Wearner
November 20, 2020	Submitted to the Speaker of the House
November 26, 2020	Re-Submitted to the Speaker of the House
November 30, 2020	Messaged to the Senate
December 1, 2020	Resolution passed by the Senate

RESOLUTION

1 **WHEREAS:** The “TREAT Act,” otherwise known as the “Temporary Reciprocity to Ensure
2 Access to Treatment Act,” or S.4421 of the 116th United States Congress, and its companion bill
3 H.R.8283 of 116th United States Congress, aim to provide temporary licensing reciprocity for
4 telehealth and interstate health care treatment, and;¹²

5
6 **WHEREAS:** The COVID–19 pandemic has led to the closure of many businesses and nonprofit
7 organizations, including colleges and universities. Moreover, S.4221 and H.R.8283 finds that
8 large areas of the country remain under full or partial stay-at-home orders, precluding the ability
9 to seek routine or elective medical treatment and consultation, and;

10
11 **WHEREAS:** “The closing of campus-based in-person learning at institutions of higher
12 education has also meant that up to 1,000,000 students have returned to live with their families
13 across state lines from where they may have been receiving medical care in the university
14 setting,” and;³

15
16 **WHEREAS:** Mental health providers may only offer their services within their state of

¹ Murphy, Christopher. “S.4421 - 116th Congress (2019-2020): TREAT Act.” *Congress.gov*, 4 Aug. 2020, www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/4421.

² Latta, Robert E. “Text - H.R.8283 - 116th Congress (2019-2020): TREAT Act.” *Congress.gov*, 17 Sept. 2020, www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/8283/text.

³ Murphy, Christopher. “S.4421 - 116th Congress (2019-2020): TREAT Act.”

17 licensure. State licensing boards typically prohibit health providers from soliciting their services
18 across state lines. An inability to visit a medical professional's office in the state of licensure can
19 render health care services inaccessible. Therefore, Wake Forest students not residing within the
20 state of North Carolina may be unable to visit Student Health Services (SHS) or the University
21 Counseling Center (UCC) to seek healthcare services as a result of these restrictions. Thus, Wake
22 Forest students who may typically rely on the SHS or the UCC are forced to seek treatment
23 within their state or country of residence—if at all. This dilemma presents a sobering reality:
24 state licensing requirements promulgate inequities in the accessibility of health care services
25 during the COVID-19 pandemic—a time when these very services are in especially high demand
26 among students and faculty alike, and;

27
28 **WHEREAS:** Data collected by Johns Hopkins University, the Centers for Disease Control, and
29 the COVID Tracking Project indicate that the percentage of positive COVID-19 cases in the U.S.
30 has increased at unprecedented rates since September of 2020.⁴ Moreover, the percent of positive
31 COVID-19 cases in the state of North Carolina continues to increase at a dizzying pace—
32 surpassing earlier records set in the spring of 2020.⁵ With COVID-19 cases continuing to rise,
33 there is a possibility that institutions of higher learning will be forced to close their campuses for
34 in-person instruction. In the event that universities close their campuses in the spring semester,
35 thousands, perhaps millions, of students will be without critical health care services provided by
36 their respective institutions of higher learning. It is also possible that further travel restrictions
37 will be implemented over the holiday to curb the spread of the virus—exacerbating existing
38 health care inequities, and;

39
40 **WHEREAS:** Health and well-being is one of the most pressing concerns for Wake Forest
41 students more broadly and this Student Government more specifically, and;

42
43 **WHEREAS:** This resolution, and the TREAT Act(s) more broadly, have received the
44 unanimous support of the Wake Forest University Counseling Center (UCC) per extended
45 correspondence with Dr. Nathaniel Ivers, Dr. Jose Villalba, and Dr. Daniel Paredes.

⁴ Ritchie, Research and data: Hannah. "Coronavirus (COVID-19) Cases - Statistics and Research." *Our World in Data*, 2020, ourworldindata.org/covid-cases.

⁵ "Have We Flattened the Curve in North Carolina? - Johns Hopkins." *Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center*, 2020, coronavirus.jhu.edu/data/new-cases-50-states/north-carolina.

47 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:**

48 1) The Wake Forest Student Government will support the passage of the bipartisan TREAT
49 Act(s) to ensure that students across the country, but Demon Deacons in particular, have
50 access to telehealth services and interstate health care treatment.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ethan Wearer,
Co-Chair, Judiciary