**R047-0607**

**A RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE RIGHT TO SELF DEFENSE ON STATE CAMPUSES**

**WHEREAS:** Recently a student at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University murdered 32 of his fellow students at that institution; and,

**WHEREAS:** Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University has been the only state university in Virginia to have banned students from carrying or having on campus defensive weapons; and,

**WHEREAS:** Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University had refused the Virginia General Assembly's requests to change this policy; and,

**WHEREAS:** In 2002, a similar tragedy was avoided at the Appalachian School of Law when a would be mass-murderer was subdued by students using their legally permitted defensive weapons long before police were able to arrive; and,

**WHEREAS:** Maryland Universities and Colleges have policies banning legally permitted defensive weapons on campuses; and,

**WHEREAS:** Maryland State Universities and Colleges do not all have campus police forces; and,

**WHEREAS:** The State of Maryland must do everything in its power to prevent such a tragedy from occurring on one of its college or university campuses.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** That the Maryland Student Legislature demands that the Maryland General Assembly to enact legislation ensuring that all students, faculty and staff on state university and college campuses are permitted to carry legally obtained, non-lethal defensive weapons for their personal protection; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That for the purposes of this resolution, The Maryland General Assembly shall specifically define non-lethal defensive weapons, but include mace, pepper spray, and low power tazers in their definition.

**MANDATES:** Martin O'Malley, Governor of Maryland
Anthony G. Brown, Lieutenant Governor of Maryland
Michael E. Busch, Speaker of the House of Delegates
Kumar P. Barve, House of Delegates Majority Leader
Anthony J. O'Donnell, House of Delegates Minority Leader
Thomas V. Miller, Jr., President of the State Senate
Edward J. Kasemeyer, State Senate Majority Leader
David R. Brinkley, State Senate Minority Leader

**SPONSOR:**
Scott T. Besore, Independent Caucus Leader, University of Maryland, Baltimore County

**CO-SPONSORS:**
Dustin W. Mills, Delegation Chair Person, Salisbury University
Chris Tinsman, Delegation Chair Person, Washington College