



COUNCIL OF COMMONWEALTH STUDENT GOVERNMENTS  
THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY

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C. R. 20-21.03

## In Support of Student Tenant Relief and H.B. 2827

**Authors:** *Elliot Copeland (Abington President), Lawrence Corridoni (Wilkes-Barre President)*

**Sponsors:** *Megan Close (Abington Vice President), Kaci Grabowski (Wilkes-Barre Vice President) Kareem Elsergany (Director of Governmental Affairs), Kaushik Karri (Penn State Abington)*

**Whereas,** The Council of Commonwealth Student Governments (CCSG) represents the concerns of the students attending the campus in matters of a University-wide nature, as well as those issues impacting the combined interests of the campuses, and

**Whereas,** The COVID-19 emergency has negatively affected students in a myriad of ways, including housing, financial, and health concerns, and

**Whereas,** Due to the competitive nature of housing both on and off-campus, students, some of whom are immunocompromised, signed binding financial agreements as far back as September 2019, before COVID-19 even existed, based on the entirely reasonable assumption that there would be no pressing health emergency the next academic year, and

**Whereas,** Through no fault of their own, students' plans for housing have been disrupted, causing financial hardship and emotional stress, and

**Whereas,** With the unemployment rate at 8.4% as of September 4 according to the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, many students have seen their income shrink or be lost entirely during this period of financial downturn, and

**Whereas,** If Penn State transitions to a fully online curriculum because of COVID-19, students could be required by their contracts to pay for housing that is vacant/ unoccupied

**Now therefore,** because being burdened with an unnecessary lease would keep students from focusing on their education,

**Be it resolved,** That the Council of Commonwealth Student Governments supports efforts to provide financial relief to students because of the COVID-19 emergency, especially with respect to housing and renting such as provided for in H.B. 2827, and

**Be it further resolved,** That the Director of Government Affairs, or other central staffers that the president of ccsg will designate, shall in a timely manner draft, create, and share a plan to lobby in favor of H.B. 2827 with the President and members of this Council, which the members may implement at their discretion.

Respectfully,



Elliot Copeland  
President  
Penn State Abington



Lawrence Corridoni  
President  
Penn State Wilkes-Barre

Council Action

Vote 25 : 2 : 0

Pass: YES Fail: NO Postponed: NO

Presidential Action

Approved:

Veto: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 10/09/2020