

CERTIFICATE OF ENROLLMENT

SENATE RESOLUTION R-31-30

BOARD BILL 5.04

31st and 32nd Session
2024-2025 and 2025-2026 Academic Year

Passed by the Board [Month
Day, 2024] YEAS 6 NAYS 0

CERTIFICATE

I, Erick Jacobsen, Speaker of the Senate of the Associated Students of the University of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **SENATE RESOLUTION R-31-30** as passed by the Senate on the date set forth.

Nandana Jaideep
President, Board of Directors

Passed by the Senate
November 18th, 2025. YEAS 84
NAYS 1.



Erick Jacobsen
Speaker, Student Senate



Erick Jacobsen
Speaker, Student Senate

Passed Senate



SENATE RESOLUTION R-31-30

A Resolution Calling on University of Washington
Administrators to Protect the Rights of
Immigrant and Trans Students on Campus by
Establishing a Firewall for Freedom

Under Consideration - 2024-2025 Academic Year

A.S.U.W.

Spring Quarter 2025

31st Session

Sponsored by Anna Crow. **Co-Sponsored by** Peyton Sax, *ASUW Director of Programming*

Referred to Committee on Off Campus Affairs. Read on the floor 10/21/2025.

SUMMARY

This resolution is a small part of a nationwide effort to fight back against the tyranny of the federal administration. In collaboration with the ACLU and Amnesty International, students across the country are pushing their universities to protect academic freedom and their constitutional rights to assemble, protest, and speak freely. This resolution urges the University of Washington (UW) administration to do the same and perhaps take it a step further, setting a precedent for further action and inspiring other colleges and universities to follow suit.

1 **WHEREAS** The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) has proposed a
2 Firewall for Freedom that they outline to be a "declaration of
3 support for students, faculty, and staff who are under attack by
4 the Trump administration for exercising their rights to freedom
5 of expression, association, and Assembly" [1].

6 **WHEREAS** 300 students and staff (and counting) have signed a
7 Firewall for Freedom Petition, calling for the prioritization of
8 safety and protection for all students, regardless of
9 citizenship status or sexual/gender identity (Appendix A); and

10 **WHEREAS** this current federal administration is pressuring
11 universities to assist in the targeting of students, faculty,
12 and staff based on their immigration status, sexual and gender
13 identity, and/or the lawful exercise of their freedom of
14 expression granted to them under the First Amendment [1]; and

15 **WHEREAS** Senate Resolution R-31-20, a Resolution in Support of
16 Undocumented Students amidst recent Federal Policy, was passed
17 by the ASUW Board of Directors on April 3, 2025 [2]; and

18 **WHEREAS** the targeting of higher education institutions, its
19 students and staff by the federal administration is an
20 increasingly urgent matter that needs to be addressed by the
21 University as soon as possible; and

22 **WHEREAS** Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits the
23 University of Washington, as a federally funded institution,
24 from discriminating against students based on race, color, or
25 national origin [3]; and

26 **WHEREAS** Title IX of the federal Education Amendment passed in
27 1972 prohibits the University of Washington, as a federally
28 funded institution, from discriminating against students on the
29 basis of sex [15]; and

30 **WHEREAS** students and staff, under the First Amendment, have the
31 right to criticize the government, its policies, and even its
32 founding principles [4]; and

33 **WHEREAS** The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)
34 requires that schools protect the privacy of student records,
35 including against unwarranted disclosure to the government or
36 private parties [5]; and

37 **WHEREAS** Disability Resources for Students (DRS) states that "All
38 information and documentation submitted to the DRS office is
39 kept separate from academic records and is considered private
40 under FERPA" [6]; and

41 **WHEREAS** The University of Washington states that "Transgender,
42 cisgender and nonbinary – all employees of all genders and
43 expressions – have the right to express their gender identity
44 openly" [7]; and

45 **WHEREAS** Executive Order 31 prohibits discrimination, harassment,
46 and retaliation based on sex, pregnancy, sexual orientation,
47 and/or gender identity or expression [8]; and

48 **WHEREAS** the University has stated that it is "deeply committed
49 to serving all our citizens" and is "committed to the active
50 pursuit of global engagement and connectedness" [9]; and

51 **WHEREAS** the UW, across all three campuses, is home to 8,000
52 international students representing more than 100 countries.
53 Non-resident, international students pay up to \$57,612 in
54 tuition alone to the University every year. UW Husky Housing and
55 Food Services (HFS) also employs over 1,000 students, many of
56 whom are international students with F-1 visas who are only
57 eligible to work on campus [[10](#)]; and

58
59 **WHEREAS** American University, Colorado State University, and the
60 University of Nebraska - Omaha have passed Firewall for Freedom
61 resolutions in collaboration with the ACLU and Amnesty
62 International on their campuses; and

63 **WHEREAS** former President Cauce signed the American Association
64 of Colleges and Universities' "Call for Constructive Engagement"
65 that opposes this current administration's "Intrusion in the
66 lives of those who learn, live, and work on our campuses" [[11](#)];
67 and

68
69 **WHEREAS** nine of the eighteen universities a part of the Big Ten
70 Academic Alliance have signed onto the Mutual Academic Defense
71 Compact created by Rutgers University to protect collegiate
72 institutions from attacks leveled by the Trump Administration
73 [[12](#)]; and

74
75 **WHEREAS** on April 17th, 2025, the UW Faculty Senate passed a
76 Class C Resolution to urge then-President Cauce to commit to the
77 Mutual Aid Defense Compact [[13](#)];

78
79 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF THE**
80 **UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON:**

81 **THAT** UW students and staff declare their support for the
82 protection of the civil and human rights of all people on this
83 campus; and

84 **THAT** we the students call on the University of Washington
85 administration, and President Robert Jones, to take all possible
86 measures to ensure that our campus is a safe place where our
87 community can work and learn freely without fear of intimidation
88 by

- 89 1. Reaffirming its commitment to DEI programs;
- 90 2. Prioritizing the needs of students and staff over the risk
91 of potential funding cuts;
- 92 3. Becoming a sanctuary campus;

93 4. Implementing best practices regarding student records and
94 ICE's presence on campus (Appendix A); and

95 **THAT** we the student body of the University of Washington call on
96 President Jones to employ his authority to establish a firewall
97 for freedom, prohibiting employees of the University of
98 Washington from voluntarily providing information or assistance
99 in response to a request from federal authorities or out-of-
100 state authorities, including Immigration and Customs
101 Enforcement, that seeks:

- 102 1. To identify, or impose civil or criminal liability or other
103 penalties, including termination or reduction of grant
104 funding, upon a person or entity based on their
105 participation in activities protected by the First
106 Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, including assembly,
107 petitioning, expression of viewpoints, and speech;
- 108 2. To identify or apprehend a person in order to subject them
109 to immigration detention, removal, or deportation
110 proceedings; or to prosecute a person or persons for
111 offenses related to immigration status based on their
112 participation in activities protected by the First
113 Amendment of the U.S. Constitution including assembly,
114 petitioning, expression of viewpoints and speech;
- 115 3. To investigate the sex or gender of a student, faculty, or
116 staff member; and

117 **THAT** all information about this Firewall and the protections it
118 establishes be made available to students through email and the
119 UW website; and

120 **THAT** we the students call on the Student Senates of UW Bothell
121 and Tacoma to declare their support for this resolution or pass
122 their own; and

123 **THAT** a copy of this legislation be forwarded to the following
124 parties or organizations:

Nandana Jaideep | President, *ASUW Board of Directors*
Joseph Riggio | ASUW Vice Speaker, *ASUW Student Senate*
Robert Jones | President, *University of Washington*
Stephanie Court | Executive Assistant to the President,
University of Washington
Tricia Serio | Provost, *University of Washington*
Louisa Mackenzie | Chair, *UW Faculty Senate*
Kristin G. Esterberg | Chancellor, *UW Bothell*

Linda Watts | Chair, *UW Bothell General Faculty Organization*
Sheila E. Lange | Chancellor, *UW Tacoma*
Anne Taufen | Chair, *UW Tacoma Faculty Assembly*
Adan Rodriguez | President, *ASUWB*
Elias Feleke | President, *ASUWT*
The Daily UW
The Seattle Times
The New York Times
The Associated Press
KOMO News

References

- [1] **Firewall for Freedom: Campus Resolution Toolkit** (2025).
<https://www.aclu.org/publications/firewall-for-freedom-campus-resolution-toolkit>.
- [2] **BOARD BILL 5.22 (R-31-20) A Resolution in Support of Undocumented Students Amidst Recent Federal Policy** (2025).
https://uwnetidmy.sharepoint.com/:w:/g/personal/asuwssvc_uw_edu/ESytZDhhxztFlgRojYabD70BT8YLjOULYHebdXzTN71SzA?e=Bzy59w.
- [3] **Title VII of the Civil Rights Act** (1964).
<https://www.eeoc.gov/statutes/title-vii-civil-rights-act-1964>.
- [4] **Constitution of the United States - Amendment 1** (1791).
<https://constitution.congress.gov/constitution/amendment-1/>.
- [5] **Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act - Subtitle A Part 99** (1974).
<https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-34/subtitle-A/part-99?toc=1>.
- [6] **MyDRS Student Guide**.
<https://depts.washington.edu/uwdrs/current-students/mydrs-student-guide/>.
- [7] **University of Washington Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Statement**.
<https://hr.uw.edu/diversity/transgender-resources/transgender-resources-for-uw-employees/#:~:text=Transgender%2C%20cisgender%20and%20nonbinary%20%E2%80%93%20all,their%20authentic%20selves%20at%20work>.

- [8] **UW Policy on Nondiscrimination and Non-Retaliation.**
<https://policy.uw.edu/directory/po/executive-orders/eo-31-nondiscrimination-and-affirmative-action/>.
- [9] **UW Vision Statement** (2025).
<https://www.washington.edu/about/visionvalues/>.
- [10] **UW International Student Services.**
<https://iss.washington.edu/>.
- [11] **American Association of Colleges and Universities - "A Call for Constructive Engagement"** (2025).
<https://www.aacu.org/newsroom/a-call-for-constructive-engagement>
- [12] **Forbes: "Half of Big Ten Faculty Senates Have Voted for a Mutual Defense Compact"** (April 2025).
<https://www.forbes.com/sites/michaelnietzel/2025/04/26/half-of-big-ten-faculty-senates-have-voted-for-a-mutual-defense-compact/>
- [13] **UW Faculty Senate: Class C Resolution to Establish a Mutual Defense Compact for the Universities of the Big Ten Academic Alliance in Defense of Academic Freedom, Institutional Integrity, and the Research Enterprise** (April 2025).
<https://www.washington.edu/faculty/legislation/>
- [14] **ACLU Immigration Enforcement Guidance for Schools** (2025).
<https://www.aclu.org/documents/immigration-enforcement-guidance-for-schools>
- [15] **US Department of Education Title IX and Sex Discrimination**
<https://www.ed.gov/laws-and-policy/civil-rights-laws/title-ix-and-sex-discrimination>

APPENDIX A

Firewall for Freedom Petition: University of Washington

- "Across the country, students are speaking out on urgent human rights issues including war, refugee and migrants' rights, trans rights, racial justice and reproductive rights."
- At the same time, this current administration is threatening college and university funding if they do not capitulate to the administration's demands. These demands threaten the very principles that our colleges are founded on. Freedom of speech, assembly and press are integral to our universities and to our country as a whole. Academic freedom is key to education, and now more than ever, we need to call on our universities to protect their students and their education.
- At the University of Washington, we are asking the administration to establish a Firewall for Freedom. This means that our university "will not voluntarily share their resources- including their staff's time or the data they collect on students and faculty- with federal law enforcement who are seeking to violate our human rights or target members of our school community based on their exercise of human rights." The UW needs to protect the students, faculty and staff who have dedicated their time, money and resources to this University. "Campus officials need to take concrete action to protect the rights of all students, including the rights to free speech and assembly", and refuse to proactively work or comply with government agencies to infringe on these rights to target students, no matter what their immigration status is.
- With the help of the ACLU and Amnesty International, we hope that the University of Washington will be one of many colleges and universities across the country to protect the rights of their faculty and students. We have the opportunity to set a precedent and stand with other universities such as Harvard to fight for freedom for all people on college campuses.

Resolution Demands Summary

A resolution calling for a firewall for freedom to protect against the federal government's attacks on our constitutional,

civil, and human rights. We are calling on the University of Washington-Seattle to:

- Allow students to criticize the government as protected under the First Amendment
- Refuse to risk the safety of their students, regardless of their legal status and/or sexual and gender identity
- Protect UW faculty and staff from arrestation and/or deportation
- Prioritize the safety and wellbeing of UW students and faculty over any potential funding cuts
- Reaffirm its commitment to the ECC, OMAD, and all other DEI programs and facilities on campus
- Adhere to federal law and ensure the confidentiality of student records
- Adhere to federal law and protect your students and faculty from discrimination, harassment, threats and violence
- Take any and all possible steps to protect the student body and faculty from any threats under the current administration

APPENDIX B

As written by the ACLU, colleges and universities can prepare to deal with ICE ahead of time by instituting these best practices:

- a. Create a policy under which you will disclose the subpoena to the parties whose records have been requested unless you are barred from doing so by a court order.
- b. Announce a policy of disclosure on your webpage, law enforcement contact page, or other publicly accessible place to dissuade casual or frivolous subpoenas.
- c. Have a policy for responding to ICE subpoenas and connected communications. You can safely decline to respond to administrative subpoenas absent a court order, but you may prefer to provide a written response that explains your grounds for objecting to the subpoena, and that you will notify the person whose records are sought. You may want to provide a short but reasonable time in which the officer can seek a non-disclosure order from a court before disclosing it to the affected person.
- d. Prepare to oppose any court motion to compel compliance. Whether you wait for a court order enforcing the subpoena, or actively contest the motion to compel, this may deter ICE from sending you frivolous subpoenas.
- e. Train all staff that if immigration agents show up, they should immediately inform a designated, trained contact person and not answer questions or otherwise assist the agents.

- f. Ensure that an attorney reviews any requests from immigration authorities, including any warrant or subpoena, before complying.
- g. Limit the information you collect and keep only what is necessary. Data minimization is the best way to protect members of your community. If you don't have it, a subpoena cannot compel disclosure of it [\[14\]](#).