



LSA Student Government Stands in Solidarity with University of Michigan ResStaff's Demands for a Safe and Equitable Workplace

September 16, 2020

Fellow University of Michigan Students,

LSA Student Government stands in solidarity with University of Michigan Residential Staff members on strike for a safe and equitable workplace. Across campus, Resident Advisors (RAs) and Diversity Peer Educators (DPEs) have mobilized to create positive change in their communities. Their demands are based in their vested interest in promoting the health and safety of their residents, and their very real concerns about the lack of support given to them by the University over the past several weeks.

The courage of those on strike cannot be overstated. Without a union or collective action organization, they stand as individuals united. They are joined by strikers from Graduate Employees' Organization (GEO) #3550 and Michigan Dining in their marches and picket lines. They stand for improved access to COVID-19 testing, enhanced personal protective equipment, improved conditions for quarantining and isolating students, and adherence to policies prohibiting Residential Staff members from being compelled to come in contact with students who may be positive with COVID-19.

We encourage all members of the Michigan community to offer support to those striking at this time. We applaud those students and community members who have sent food and supplies to students in the undersupplied quarantine dorms, and appreciate the words of support from numerous student organizations of campus directed toward these groups fighting for health and safety. To the students living in the dorms, we encourage you to support your striking RAs and DPEs, as well as the GEO #3550 and Michigan Dining. To members of University administration, we encourage you to consider the reasonable demands of the strikers, and consider the words of our University's mission statement:

“to serve the people of Michigan and the world through preeminence in creating, communicating, preserving and applying knowledge, art, and academic **values, and in developing leaders and citizens who will challenge the present and enrich the future.**”¹

In Solidarity,

LSA Student Government

¹ Emphasis added. See <https://president.umich.edu/about/mission/#:~:text=The%20mission%20of%20the%20University,present%20and%20enrich%20the%20future.>