



Executive Action Sheet for Senate Legislation

- Senate Bill 331- *046*
- Resolution 331-

I, Sydney Thayer, President of the Student Assembly of William & Mary do hereby:

- Approve
- Veto

The Student Assembly Senate Legislation: *Paws for Stress Act*

Sydney Thayer

President, 331st Student Assembly (23-24)

DATE: *3/6/24*

331st Student Assembly,
Senate Bill 331-046

A Bill

To enhance student well-being through therapeutic cat interactions, fostering a supportive and engaging campus environment during midterms, while celebrating the diverse interests of our student body by acknowledging the cat lovers among us

Paws for Stress Act

Sponsored by Senator Sophia L. Tamma ('24)

Supported by Secretary of Student Life Daly Martorano '24

Whereas, the student body at William & Mary faces significant stress and anxiety during midterm examinations, impacting their mental health and academic performance;

Whereas, the College has previously recognized the therapeutic benefit of animal interaction by facilitating therapy dog visits during final exams, which has been met with positive feedback from students;

Whereas, there exists a considerable portion of the student population at William & Mary that identifies as cat lovers, who may prefer or benefit more from the presence of cats;

Whereas, Pet Partners, a reputable organization known for its fully trained and screened therapy animal teams, has successfully provided support to thousands of facilities, including other educational institutions such as Yale University, through visits that contribute to emotional and stress relief;

Whereas, Pet Partners has expressed enthusiasm about supporting William and Mary's student body by offering the services of their therapy cats for a proposed event aimed at aiding students during the midterm period;

Whereas, hosting the therapy cat event outdoors significantly mitigates concerns related to allergies, thereby ensuring a safer and more inclusive environment for all students, faculty, and staff who wish to participate, while also respecting those with sensitivities or allergies to cats;

Whereas, providing complimentary pastries and coffee during the therapy cat event will enhance the overall experience for attendees, offering not only emotional support through animal interaction but also physical nourishment and a welcoming atmosphere that encourages social engagement and relaxation among students;

Whereas, the event is scheduled to take place two weeks after Spring Break at the Crim Dell;

Now, therefore, be it,

RESOLVED, that the Student Assembly of William & Mary:

1. Allocates \$1500 from the Student Assembly Reserves for the purpose of covering the expenses associated with the therapy cat event organized in partnership with Pet Partners.
 - a. \$800 dedicated exclusively to cat-related expenses,
 - b. \$700 allocated to cover food (croissants) and coffee for attendees, enhancing the overall experience of the event.
2. Charges the Department of Student Life and sponsors of the bill with the following:
 - a. Executing and planning the event in its entirety
3. Charges the Department of Outreach to spearhead the coordination and promotion of the therapy cat event in collaboration with Pet Partners, leveraging platforms like the Student Assembly Instagram and Student Happenings. The message should be:
 - a. ""
4. Stipulates that all unused funds go back to the Student Assembly Reserves