

To whom it may concern,

My name is Gavin Caldwell and I am the current president of TPUSA at Kansas St. I have been a part of this organization for 2 years at multiple universities in the state of Kansas. Both of these bills that Senator Masterson has worked on are a major step in the right direction for students to speak freely on their beliefs without administrative interference. During my time at Pittsburg State, gaining Registered Student Organization(RSO) status on campus was very difficult. Not by any action of ours, but because the campus had put us on the backburner from August - October. The requirements by the university were simple.

- 1) We needed 3 students on our executive team
- 2) We needed a professor willing to sponsor the organization
- 3) Create a constitution to guide the organization on campus

We had all 3 of these nailed down in the first 2 weeks of school and applied for RSO status, in which we received no response from the University in a month. At this point, my field representative and I said, "Ok, PSU is a public university. We are going to table in the oval with a free speech ball." And that is what we did on October 9th, 2024. We tabled with a giant beach ball giving any student with an open mind to write anything they wish on it. Students wrote anything from Trump 2024 to "[Insert Choice Word] you nazi pigs". There was no reason for any student to feel uncomfortable with us on campus as we gave them free reign to attack us verbally, if that was what they wished for.

Until all of a sudden we had 2 police officers and a PSU administrator walking out to us. They had told us that we were making students uncomfortable by our presence on campus, and I'm just sitting there thinking, "How in the world are people uncomfortable by us encouraging anyone to use their first amendment right to free speech, regardless of if they love or hate us?" After explaining the situation and why we were out on campus, the officers told us we were not

breaking any laws as PSU is a public university, giving us the right to table. But if the administrator wanted us off of campus, we would have to comply with the request. The administrator, of course, wanted us gone saying as well that our free speech ball was making people uncomfortable and that we needed RSO status if we ever wanted to table again. I replied to him saying we would leave, but had they checked their RSO applications, this issue would have never come about.

If it wasn't for myself and my team, going out to press the issue, I can tell you with almost certainty that Pittsburg State would have not approved our organization, until they felt like it. I will remind you that many highschools respond the same way if not worse than what I dealt with. Manhattan High's club America was thrown on the back burner a majority of last semester, leaving their chapter money inaccessible. Administrators try to control how we think by keeping us from speaking truth through our schools and campuses, and it's about time for change.

Senator Masterson's work on these bills will protect our organizations from administrative interference and finally give students the power to speak their mind, which is all we as chapters across the nation ask for. A safe space to speak our truth. Thank you to Senator Masterson for honoring Charlie Kirk's legacy and pushing the mission of Turning Point USA forward.