

1 **RESOLUTION 22/23/19**

**RESOLUTION TO IMPLEMENT METHODS
OF MEANS REDUCTION ON CAMPUS**

4 **BY:** Eknoor Sethi, Ellory Smith, Sreenandita Vankineni, Kareena Gohel, and
5 Kelly Higgins

6 **WHEREAS,** According to the Indiana government website, since 2000, the state of
7 Indiana has had a higher suicide rate than the national average (IN.gov).
8 The Kelley community has understood that there is an increasing need to
9 develop effective methods of restriction to prevent acts of self-harm for
10 the safety of all persons within the Kelley community;

11 **WHEREAS,** In 2022, suicide was the second-leading cause of death for teens and
12 young adults aged between 10 and 34, according to the Centers for
13 Disease Control and Prevention;

14 **WHEREAS,** According to the International Parking & Mobility Institute (IPMI), 51%
15 of parking organizations have experienced a suicide or attempt. Further
16 according to the IPMI, parking garages often have open sides for
17 ventilation to allow customers to enter with little or no security
18 checkpoints, and generally have fewer people walking around which
19 makes them much more accessible. “It is not surprising that more suicides
20 occur at garages...[and] universities, whose at-risk population is often
21 under increased stress and lacking resources and support, have higher risk
22 of suicide at their locations,” (IPMI);

23 **WHEREAS,** According to research conducted by the Harvard School of Public Health,
24 a majority of suicide attempts occur during a short-term crisis, with almost
25 50% of attempts being made within the first 5-10 minutes after the event.
26 By resolving areas of lethal concern, specifically means restriction in
27 parking garages, it can be expected that overall safety would be improved.
28 Further, according to the Harvard School of Public Health, “means
29 reduction” is reducing a suicidal person’s access to highly lethal means;

30 **WHEREAS,** The JED Foundation states that some highly lethal means for suicide on
31 campus include access to rooftops, windows, bridges, access to laboratory
32 chemicals, alcohol, and drugs; access to firearms is also a risk factor. On
33 Indiana University - Bloomington’s (IUB) campus, people do not have
34 rooftop access to a majority of buildings, however, parking garages remain
35 a problem;

36 **WHEREAS,** In terms of suicide prevention at parking garages, the IPMI recommends
37 the installing of physical barriers, such as chain-link fencing, screening,
38 security netting, vinyl-coated mesh, and/or metal grating, stainless steel, or
39 glass barricades. An example of suicide prevention measures being taken
40 place is at the Golden Gate Bridge, where the installation of a safety net

41 under the walkway of the bridge began in 2018 and expected to be
42 completed in 2023;

43 **WHEREAS,** According to The JED Foundation, an all-inclusive strategy for means
44 restriction promotes practices that serve to lengthen the time between an
45 impulse to self-harm and the opportunity to access the means to act on that
46 impulse. For example, securing roofs and open areas between floors of
47 parking garages are barriers to suicide. The Harvard School of Public
48 Health indicates that means reduction saves lives, specifically “when
49 lethal means are made less available or less deadly, suicide rates by that
50 method decline, and frequently suicide rates overall decline”;

51 **WHEREAS,** For the safety of all members of the community, it is imperative to
52 mitigate the risk associated with parking garages around Kelley to prevent
53 and/or discourage attempts. Instances of attempted and/or completed self-
54 harm are traumatic for witnesses and people who live and/or work in the
55 area;

56 **WHEREAS,** Mental health is a complex topic and has various pillars along with safety
57 measures such as the promotion of resources. As of now, the Kelley
58 School of Business offers an abundance of mental health resources to its
59 community. A document that accumulates all of Kelley and overall IUB
60 resources, as well as national crisis lines, can be accessed through the
61 Kelley Office of Student Support; and

62 **WHEREAS,** The KSG Executive Committee recommends the passage of this resolution
63 by a vote of 16-0.

64

65 **BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

66 **SECTION 1.** Kelley Student Government advocates for the safety and mental well-
67 being of all members of the Kelley community, and therefore strongly
68 advises that there be an implementation of physical barriers within the
69 rooftop, other elevated levels, and open spaces between floors of the Fee
70 Lane Parking Garage. Some recommendations of physical barriers consist
71 of structures at elevated levels that curve inward to prevent climbing
72 (IPMI) and/or prevention nets such as the one at the Golden Gate Bridge.
73 We further recommend that along with physical barriers, the
74 implementation of mental health resources signage be posted throughout
75 the Fee Lane Parking Garage.

76 **SECTION 2.** Kelley Student Government also recommends that Indiana University
77 conduct a survey of the physical environment including — but not limited
78 to — all structures to identify any areas where students, faculty, staff,
79 and/or the community may have access to lethal means. Once identified,

80 solutions should be developed to reduce access to such means in all
81 locations within the Bloomington campus, as well as other branches of
82 Indiana University.

Resolution 22-23-19 was passed by audible vote on February 2, 2023

I hereby approve this resolution and certify it is true and correct.

Chase Wampler

2/2/2023

Chase Wampler

Date

President of the Student Government

