

**The Graduate Student Assembly
The University of Texas at Austin**

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Resolution: J.R. 17 (S) 3 - Joint Resolution in Support of the 2017 Orange & Maroon
Legislative Day

WHEREAS (1): Orange & Maroon Legislative Day is a nonpartisan campaign spearheaded by the alumni chapters of the two premier flagship academic universities in Texas: Texas A&M University and The University of Texas at Austin. The two universities and their respective alumni will unite on Feb 15, 2017 to celebrate Orange & Maroon Legislative Day and promote higher education in the state of Texas; and,

WHEREAS (2): Texas A&M University and The University of Texas at Austin boast a strong alumni network with more than 941,000 alumni and a combined student enrollment of more than 117,000 students. With more than 27,000 degrees awarded each year, both universities serve as premier academic institutions for students and beacons in higher education; and,

WHEREAS (3): Texas A&M University and The University of Texas at Austin advocate for research and teaching missions that benefit the State of Texas. The two universities are the only two Tier One public research institutions as defined by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. Both universities continually support the advancement of scientific breakthroughs, entrepreneurship, sustainable innovation, and the development of well-informed, engaged citizenry; together, both universities have more than 1,500 patents and more than \$1.3 billion in research expenditures; and,

WHEREAS (4): The Orange & Maroon Legislative Day advocates for increased funding for higher education research and continued support / patronage for the advancement of the arts & sciences. As premier higher education institutions, increased funding will provide avenues for both universities to innovate and develop breakthroughs for the wellbeing of the Texas citizenry; and,

WHEREAS (5): We, as the Graduate Student Assembly of Texas A&M University and The University of Texas at Austin, serve as the official voice of graduate students and exist to represent student interests to the Texas A&M and The University of Texas at Austin administration, among other audiences; now,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED (1): That the Graduate Student Assembly of Texas A&M University and The University of Texas at Austin advocate that there is great value to the respective universities for providing a unified voice to the Texas Legislature, allowing for both universities to be academically competitive; and,

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED (2): That the Graduate Student Assembly of Texas A&M University and The University of Texas at Austin come together to represent student interests on this momentous occasion and celebrate Orange & Maroon Legislative Day; and,

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED (3): That this resolution be sent to the University of Texas Board of Regents, the Office of the Chancellor, the Office of the President, The Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost, the Vice President of Student Affairs, the Department of Diversity and Community Engagement, the Office of the Dean of Students, the Office Admissions, the Office of the Vice President of Legal Affairs, the Office of Government Relations, *The Austin American-Statesman*, *The Texas Tribune*, *The Daily Texan* and *The Horn*.