April 16, 2018

Dear Senator,

I am writing to express The Pennsylvania State University’s strong support for Senate Bill 1090, otherwise known as the Timothy J. Piazza Antihazing Law, sponsored by Senator Jake Corman. This pivotal legislation will hold individuals and organizations accountable for hazing activity that endangers students.

Unfortunately, hazing continues to plague universities across the Commonwealth and nation, as student deaths and other near tragedies persist despite the renewed attention the issue has received. Penn State is committed to taking a lead on this issue, but universities across the nation cannot accomplish this alone.

Over the past year, Penn State has made strong progress in implementing far-reaching new measures designed to re-focus our Greek community on safety. If we are to change the current model and see an end to the hazardous behavior that we have witnessed at Penn State and nationally, we need the Commonwealth’s help.

This legislation creates a new standard of accountability for those who choose to act with such disregard. Specifically, this legislation will institute new categories of hazing, with new penalties to deter such activity. Additionally, the bill requires institutions of higher education to adopt policies to address hazing, and requires institutions to publicly post all instances of reported hazing.

At Penn State, we will not rest in our efforts to address hazing, and we are committed to leading the search for solutions to these serious, complex challenges. Senate Bill 1090 is an important step toward this goal. I hope that you will join us in supporting this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Eric J. Barron