

GREEK LEGISLATIVE ACTION ALERT

September Phone March

- Your Action Is Needed -

***Call Your Member of Congress and Senators on
Wednesday, September 19 and Urge Them to
Co-Sponsor the Collegiate Housing and Infrastructure
Act of 2007 (H.R. 643/S.638)***

Dear Greek Leader:

We need your help! On Wednesday, September 19, the Greek world is conducting a “Phone March” on Capitol Hill to bolster Congressional support for the Collegiate Housing and Infrastructure Act (H.R. 643/S. 638). From 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Eastern on September 19, we are asking Greek leaders across the country to call their legislators – the next page tells you how – and to ask them to co-sponsor the Collegiate Housing and Infrastructure Act, important legislation that will help preserve and enhance not-for-profit student housing options. We need as many Members of Congress as possible to co-sponsor this legislative initiative, and your phone call will help show lawmakers how important this legislation is to their constituents and to the Greek community nationwide.

After you have called your House and Senate offices, please log onto fraternalcaucus.com and complete the “2007 Greek Phone March Contact Form.” It requires only two minutes of your time, but it will provide the national Greek leadership with vital information that we can use in following up on your contacts.

Summary of the Bill: The Collegiate Housing and Infrastructure Act would allow tax-deductible charitable contributions given to educational foundations (such as the national educational foundations for fraternities and sororities) to be used to make improvements to housing owned and operated for the benefit of college students. This bill would make it substantially easier for Greeks nationwide to raise the money needed to install critical life-safety improvements in our chapter housing, expand housing capacity, and otherwise modernize the housing we provide to our student members.

An earlier version of the Collegiate Housing and Infrastructure Act passed the House of Representatives in 2003 as part of a larger bill, but it failed to pass the Senate for political reasons beyond our control. When Congress ended its work in 2005, we had 151 House sponsors and 28 Senate sponsors, but we have to start all over again in 2007. As of September 10, 2007 we have 159 sponsors in the House and 32 sponsors in the Senate. A complete list of current sponsors can be found at: <http://www.fraternalcaucus.org/legislation/chia-sponsors>

The Call for Action: No other piece of pending legislation would do more to help sustain and improve the Greek experience, and Congressional leaders need to hear how important this bill is to their constituents.

Ideal Outcome: We urge you to call your Representative and your Senators to ask them to become co-sponsors of the Collegiate Housing and Infrastructure Act and work to pass the bill in 2007. Then, log on and report the results of your calls on fraternalcaucus.com.

GREEK LEGISLATIVE CALL SHEET

1. Call the U.S. Capitol Switchboard at 202-224-3121 on Wednesday, September 19 and ask to be connected with your U.S. Representative and both of your Senators. If you don't know who they are, check these links first: www.house.gov and www.senate.gov.
2. When connected with the appropriate office, ask to speak with the staff member who handles tax issues. If the person is not available, ask to speak with the education staffer. If neither staff member is available, leave a voice mail or speak with the person answering the phone.
3. Try to make some of the following key points in your phone call, but **be sure to personalize the call as much as possible** to discuss how passage of the bill will benefit you or the collegiate members of your fraternal organization. If possible, reference the bill's impact on colleges and universities in your immediate area.
 - I live in your district/State and I am calling to ask your boss to become a co-sponsor of the Collegiate Housing and Infrastructure Act (H.R. 643 in the House or S. 638 in the Senate) and to push for its passage. I am also a member of ____ fraternity/sorority.
 - I am concerned that many not-for-profit student housing facilities, including fraternity and sorority housing, are unable to use certain charitable contributions to fund safety upgrades and other necessary infrastructure improvements.
 - Rising enrollment is creating severe housing shortages on college campuses nationwide and not-for-profit housing is becoming more and more crucial to ensuring that students have access to safe and affordable housing options.
 - Fraternities and sororities provide housing for *over 250,000 students each year* at no cost to the host institution, but much of this housing is in dire need of costly life safety upgrades and infrastructure improvements.
 - Currently, tax-deductible contributions to fraternity and sorority foundations cannot be used for most infrastructure improvements to housing they own and operate, but contributions to colleges and universities can. The result is we lack the funding needed to make fire and life safety improvements or other infrastructure changes that would modernize our housing.
 - The bill would eliminate this restriction and allow fraternities and sororities, as well as other not-for-profit housing operations, to install modern life safety equipment, such as fire sprinklers, smoke detectors, and alarm systems.
 - The bill has been endorsed by the American Council on Education (ACE) and the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU), two of the leading associations of higher education institutions.
 - In the last Congress, this bill had 151 bipartisan sponsors in the House and 28 sponsors in the Senate. Already this year, we have 159 House sponsors and 32 Senate sponsors. *There is no known opposition to the bill.*
 - I strongly urge you to become a co-sponsor of this important legislation.
4. **KEY STEP:** Visit www.fraternalcaucus.org and click on "2007 Greek Phone March Contact Form." Complete the form summarizing your conversations with Congressional offices so that our national Greek leaders can track your involvement and plan appropriate follow-up steps. While on the website, please register as a member under the "Get Involved" tab if you have not already done so.