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Lobbying Report

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### OU-003 “Free Parking”

Senate Bill OU-003 is an act relating to university parking fees. I encourage everyone to vote for this bill because it is not right to enforce parking permits onto students who already have to pay for tuition, books, rooms, and additional fees. A majority of students face struggles with finding ways to pay for these fees and additional add-ons, yet the universities will find any way to get more money out of you. Every single student here competing has enough trouble finding parking on their campus because they do not have the right permit or parking pass to park in certain areas or lots. We pay large sums of money to attend our institutes, so we should be able to park anywhere but where the faculty parks. It is absolutely ridiculous that our universities make us pay for parking passes, yet they do not seem to have enough parking spaces. It is a waste of money to go through the process of buying certain parking permits and trying to find the designated lots for them to be completely full.

Section 3 subsection F states that electric scooters are banned from utilizing parking spots. This has become an issue at my university with people parking, school owned or personally owned scooters in vehicle parking spaces. While you can get out and move them, people should have more sense than to park them in spots where they do not belong. Electric scooters are meant to be left on the sidewalks or other designated areas. This addition to this bill shows the author covered every basis and took even the littlest of details into account.

The one thing that I agree with the most is section 4 subsection A when it states that any university found to be in violation of this act by charging students or faculty for parking shall be subject to a fine of up to two hundred fifty dollars per instance of violation. Not only does this section hold the university or institute accountable, but it makes sure they are following these guidelines and doing right for the student. Section 4 subsection B follows up by stating that any funds collected in violation of this act must be refunded to students and faculty within ninety days of a determination of noncompliance. This is by far the strongest argument in this bill because it will not only bring in support from students, but it will also be beneficial for changing the minds of certain people who may be voting against this bill.

In conclusion, I am pushing to get this bill seen because it will help with the financial struggles of students, keep a more calm environment and less complaints, and it will keep universities and institutions held accountable by adding in repercussions for not complying with these laws that will be implemented if it passes.