Support of Ride-Sharing in Upstate New York
Senate Statement No. 10

SUBMITTED BY: Jake Bistrong '19, Senator
CO-SPONSORS: Christian Keenan '18, Senator
ENDORSED BY: The Senate Campus Services Committee
               Melissa Holloway '16, Students' Association Vice President
               Nicholas Pierce '19, Senator

WHEREAS, ride-sharing services such as Uber and Lyft have been effectively outlawed in the State of New York with the exception of New York City; and,

WHEREAS, students at the University of Rochester have been adversely affected by the current statutory prohibition of ride-sharing services in the Greater Rochester Area; and,

WHEREAS, "four out of five alcohol-related crashes in the state happened outside New York City in 2013" and "the counties that include Buffalo and Rochester, where a number of colleges are, also have among the highest number of crashes;"\(^1\) and,

WHEREAS, "Researchers at Temple University [...] found that use of car-sharing services [...] led to a decrease in the number of homicides from drunken driving,"\(^2\) suggesting that the allowance of ride-sharing services in upstate New York, thus the University of Rochester, would foster a safer environment for students; and,

WHEREAS, lack of affordable and efficient transportation has resulted in limited internship and non-internship based employment opportunities for both students and faculty at the University of Rochester; and,

WHEREAS, the induction of such services would also allow for the students of the University of Rochester to engage with the Greater Rochester community and contribute to the overall Rochester economy as they expand their buying power off campus and towards local businesses; and,

\(^1\)http://www.nytimes.com/2015/10/27/nyregion/in-push-to-expand-uber-envision-a-new-role-designated-driver.html?_r=0
\(^2\)http://www.entrepreneur.com/article/249958
WHEREAS, taxicab companies such as Marketplace Taxi, a company that was previously affiliated with the University of Rochester whose drivers made racially charged comments directed towards University of Rochester students,\(^3\) elicited a number of grievances amongst University of Rochester students with varying severity; and,

WHEREAS, the number of reported grievances suggests that poor customer service is provided by certain taxicab companies; and,

WHEREAS, the recently introduced New York State Assembly Bill A.6090 (and the companion Senate Bill S.4280) would create a legal pathway for ride-sharing in the rest of New York State; and,

WHEREAS, peer institutions such as the Rochester Institute of Technology, Syracuse University, and the University of Buffalo have all officially supported this bill as well as a change.org petition\(^4\) that seeks to quantify the overwhelming demand for the service; and,

WHEREAS, University of Rochester students and the people of Western New York have much to gain by the passage of Assembly Bill A.6090 and Senate Bill S.4280,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT we, the University of Rochester Students’ Association, stand firmly in support of the Change.org petition that advocates for Bill A.6090 and Senate Bill S.4280 and of those assembly members who are working towards the passage of these bills; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Students’ Association Government strongly encourages Governor Andrew Cuomo to sign the bill in the event of its approval by the State Legislature.

Ethan Bidna ‘16  
Speaker, Students’ Association Senate

Grant Dever ‘16  
President, Students’ Association

Senate Votes: Yes: 12  No: 0  Abs: 1  Date: 02/22/2016
