

WHEREAS student publications are facing the withdrawal of financial support that threatens their existence, as evidenced by the defunding of publications at Delta State University (Mississippi), Wesleyan University (Connecticut), and the University of Redlands (California), among many others;

WHEREAS state legislation such as the New Voices Acts of Illinois, Maryland and North Dakota have all been passed into law in the last year, but similar legislation was introduced but not passed in Missouri, Rhode Island and Washington;

WHEREAS such legislation can and does protect student journalists and advisers against the acts of intimidation identified above and others taken in retaliation for exercise of students' and advisers' First Amendment rights;

NOW THEREFORE, the Board of Directors of the American Society of News Editors, speaking on behalf of the entire Society, celebrates the enactment of the New Voices Act in Illinois, Maryland and North Dakota, as well as praising the other seven states that have enacted similar legislation in the past and calls upon those states who have not yet enacted these protections for the student media to do the same; and FURTHER expresses its support for the rights of the student media nationwide.