

# INDIANA UNIVERSITY STUDENT GOVERNMENT

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BLOOMINGTON - Indiana University Student Government (IUSG) is disappointed by Indiana University's legal claim that the university is not obligated to maintain clean, safe, and habitable residence halls. We expect Residential Programs and Services and the entire university community to be committed to the safety and health of students regardless of contractual obligation or legality- especially concerning activities mandated for students, like living in a residence hall during the first year.

In a public court filing, the university's attorneys claimed that, "the written contractual terms and conditions do not state that Indiana University is contractually obligated to provide dormitories that are either free from mold, 'suitable and ready for inhabitation,' or, 'clean, safe, and habitable.'" These comments are disheartening and disconcerting. As students who have chosen to spend their academic careers at this institution, there is a reasonable expectation that Indiana University and its affiliates will strive to act in the best interest, and health of the student body. The comments and the sentiments they convey fail to uphold said reasonably expected standard of care.

As students and as Hoosiers, we take pride in the Indiana University-Bloomington mission statement:

*"Indiana University is a major multicampus public research institution, grounded in the liberal arts and sciences, and a world leader in professional, medical, and technological education [...] Indiana University strives to achieve full diversity, and to **maintain friendly, collegial, and humane environments**, with a strong commitment to academic freedom."*

The comments made in regard to the standard of care owed to students, whether it be by means of contractual obligation or not, contradict the maintaining of "friendly, collegial, and humane environments," that is pledged in the Indiana University-Bloomington mission statement. IUSG is disappointed in the message that is being conveyed by the university's legal team, and hopes to have the opportunity to work closely with RPS, the Division of Student Affairs, and others in order to restore the promise of "friendly, collegial, and humane environments."

If you have comments or concerns that you feel IUSG should prioritize as we continue conversations about the statement from the university's legal team, safety of other residence halls, transportation for displaced students, or IU bus routes, please contact us by visiting <https://iustudentgovernment.indiana.edu/contact/index.html>.