WHEREAS GPSA represents all graduate students at Arizona State University,

WHEREAS Arizona Proposition 302 is the ballot measure that seeks to repeal the First Things First program, and take voter-approved tobacco tax dollars away from healthcare and education programs for children to put into the state general fund.

NOTING that in 2006 Arizona voters approved First Things First to be funded by a special tax on tobacco products. This revenue, directed by law into the Early Childhood Development and Health Fund, was mandated by voters to “increase the quality of and access to early childhood development and health services for children up to five years of age.”

NOTING that First Things First has helped more than 330,000 Arizona children from birth to age 5 and delivered tens of millions of dollars to communities across the state. The money is used to fund critical programs that create healthier and safer learning environments, provide detailed parenting tools and resources to teach parents of newborns, and ensure families have access to specialized healthcare.

FURTHER NOTING that First Things First provides assistantships for graduate students through a statewide research project that also employs graduate student-hourly staff at Arizona State University, Northern Arizona State University, and University of Arizona.

BE IT RESOLVED that given the importance of early childhood care and education, and the need to support education on all levels, the GPSA officially supports the Saving First Things First campaign.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that GPSA should join in other education leaders with the No on 302 campaign and work to inform graduate students of the ramifications of this proposition and offer opportunities to get involved.