

# Natalie Butler

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## EDUCATION

- 08/2007 – Present **The University of Texas at Austin** Austin, Texas  
Plan II Honors/Government (B.A.) & Political Communication Studies (B.S.)  
123 credit hours completed; 3.96GPA
- 08/2003 – 05/2007 **Corona del Sol High School** Tempe, Arizona  
Graduated in top 6% of class; 4.0 GPA

## LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

- 09/2007 – Present **Student Government of the University of Texas at Austin** Austin, Texas
- University-Wide Representative (3/2010 – Present)
    - Chair, Legislative Policy Committee
    - Write and review positions on Legislative issues
  - Executive Director (04/2009 – 04/2010)
    - Oversee approximately 25 Agencies that deal with specific issues
    - Facilitate individual Agency projects
    - Assist Directors in setting and reaching goals
  - Longhorn Legislative Aide Agency Director (04/2008 – 04/2009)
  - UT Delegate to Big XII on the Hill trip to Washington D.C. (April 2009)
  - UT Delegate to Big XII Student Government Conference (October 2008)
  - Freshman Leadership Organization (FLO) Mentor (10/2008 – Present)
  - Longhorn Legislative Aide to the Executive Director (09/2007 – 04/2008)
  - UT Delegate to Big XII Student Government Conference (November 2007)
- 09/2008 – Present **Orange Jackets** Austin, Texas
- Volunteer at Settlement Home for Abused and Neglected Girls
  - Outreach Committee Chair (8/09 – Present)
  - Representative to Spirits and Traditions Council (8/09 – Present)
- 10/2009 – Present **Intercollegiate Athletics Council for Women** Austin, Texas
- Student Representative-Elect
  - Serve as student voice on committee that advises the Women's Athletic Director
- 05/2008 – Present **Office of the Vice President of Development** Austin, Texas
- Student Ambassador for the Capital Campaign for Texas
- 01/2008 – 12/2009 **Liberal Arts Council** Austin, Texas
- Member of Traditions Committee (04/2009 – 11/2009)
  - Member of Academic Affairs Committee (9/2008 – 04/2009)
  - Member of Campus and Community Focus Committee (01/2008-05/2008)
- 09/2007 – Present **Plan II Student's Association** Austin, Texas
- Peer Adviser (04/2008 – Present)
  - Communications Co-Chair (04/2008 – 04/2009)
  - Co-Secretary (09/2007 – 04/2008)

## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- 9/2008 – Present **Settlement Home for Abused & Neglected Girls, Volunteer** Austin, Texas
- 8/2009 - Present **S.U.R.E. Walk, Coordinator and Volunteer** Austin, Texas
- 07/2008 – 08/2008 **Ed Hermes for County Supervisor, Deputy Press Secretary** Chandler, Arizona
- 06/2008 **Hartley House Shelter for Victims of Domestic Violence, Volunteer** Clovis, NM
- 11/2007 – 2/2009 **Dance Marathon, Morale Committee Member** Austin, Texas
- 11/2007 – Present **SHARE/Project Hook Up, Hometown Recruitment Ambassador and Caller** Austin, Texas
- 01/2008 – 04/2008 **Women's Resource Center, Vagina Monologues Actor** Austin, Texas

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- 11/2009 Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society Inductee
- 4/2010 Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society Inductee

1/2010 – Present Party on the Plaza Student Committee, Chair  
1/2009 – Present Student Activities Center Ad Hoc Committee Member  
1/2010 – 2/2010 Hold Up for Haiti Planning Committee Member  
2/2010 Edward S. Guleke Award Selection Committee Member  
3/2010 William David Blunk Memorial Professorship Award Selection Committee  
8/2009 – 11/2009 Leadership and Ethics Institute Staff Search Committee  
4/2008 – 5/2009 DIIA Student Advisory Council  
11/2008 Texas Exes President's Leadership Award (sophomore level)  
Fall 2007- Fall 2010 Dean's List in College of Liberal Arts, College of Communication, & University Honors  
04/2008 Longhorn Legislative Aide of the Year Award  
05/2007 Texas Exes Phoenix Chapter Scholarship  
04/2007 Larry K. Faulkner Scholarship for Academic Excellence to The University of Texas

Senate Higher Education Committee Meeting – 4/26/2010

Submitted to SHEC on 4/22/2010

Natalie Butler

Student, The University of Texas at Austin

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Testimony:

Thank you very much for allowing me to submit this testimony to you.

My name is Natalie Butler, and I am in my third year at the University of Texas at Austin, pursuing degrees in Plan II Honors, Government, and Communication Studies.

I am here today primarily because I am an out of state student at UT. I was born in New Mexico, and attended high school in Tempe, Arizona. When I was admitted to UT in March 2007, it was one of the happiest days of my senior year. I had been considering UT as my top choice University for several months. Though I was excited to be admitted, then even better day came

when I received my letter notifying me that I was lucky enough to receive an out of state tuition waver. Because I had received a competitive, merit-based scholarship worth over \$1000 per year, I was eligible for the out of state tuition waver, which takes away the difference between in and out of state tuition from what I pay every semester.

It is only because of this waver that I am able to attend UT. My parents were fortunate enough to be able to save some money for me to attend college, but not enough to pay the approximately \$30,000 per year in out of state tuition. I would not be at the University of Texas at Austin without this waver.

Diversity is continually identified as a compelling state interest. Many different kinds of diversity are important at an institution of higher education, and UT Austin continually identifies diversity as an important goal for the institution. Geographic diversity brings people of different backgrounds and perspectives to the University, and to the State of Texas. Out of state and international undergraduate students are key factors in creating geographic diversity. The presence of students from across the country and across the world enhances the educational experience for Texans and all other students, and fosters a healthy community in which everyone can learn and grow.

I know that as a state funded public institution, The University of Texas at Austin is obligated to serve Texans. Currently, only about 8% of undergraduates at UT Austin are international or out of state students, and the other 92% are Texans. I believe that the University is serving Texans. By having students from diverse backgrounds and places, the University is better serving Texans by enriching everyone's understanding of the world around them. If certain wavers were to be done away with, this would be doing a disservice to Texas.

Since I have come to Texas, I have fallen in love with the place. I have become very involved on campus and in the local community. I am an active member of UT Student government, and as an elected representative I chair our Legislative Policy Committee. I am a member of several other organizations on campus, and I regularly volunteer in Austin. If at all possible, I plan to stay in Texas after graduation, or to return after graduate school. I now consider Texas home, and I hope to be a life-long contributor to my alma mater, no matter how much or little I can give. I know that I am not a unique case among out of state students. The high achieving out of state and international students that can make it through the competitive admissions process and even be offered places at Texas' top Universities are the kinds of students that the State of Texas should want. We have the capacity to

contribute to the Universities, and to the betterment of the great State of Texas.

These competitive tuition wavers offered to high achieving out of state and international students are one of the only ways to give incentive these students to consider UT. Without them, many great students would never make it to UT. Like I mentioned earlier, I would not be in Texas without my waver, and I now hope to give back to the State of Texas for life. Out of state and international tuition wavers for undergraduate students are important, and they are ways to get great students to come to Texas that would not be able to do so otherwise. I hope that this committee will consider the great importance of wavers for out of state and international undergraduate students to the Universities and to the States of Texas.