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For Immediate Release:

We Believe Women Should Make Their Own Choices

As students, leaders, and women, the members of the Cambridge Area Panhellenic Council believe in the importance of opportunities and choices for all women. We believe in a woman's right to create a supportive, aspirational community. We believe women should make their own choices.

This is the spirit in which Alpha Phi, Delta Gamma, and Kappa Alpha Theta were established during the early 1870s. Although our founders studied with distinction and graduated with honors, their early college years were not easy. At best, they were ignored and excluded by male students, professors, and administrators; at worst, they were met with more active disapproval. In response to their hostile environment, our organizations' founders sought to create an inclusive, supportive, empowering community for themselves and the women who would follow them into college.

Over the next century and a half, we and our sister sororities have proven our worth time and time again. Still, today, on college campuses and well into the working world, women face unfair discrimination. There is value in seeing and engaging with our members and alumnae as change agents in all fields of endeavor, including mathematics, engineering, medicine, law, literature, and athletics. We offer women at all ages and all stages opportunities to experience leadership, friendship, mentorship, and community service.

Accordingly, Kappa Alpha Theta, Delta Gamma, and Alpha Phi will conduct recruitment and open it to freshmen women.

We realize that including freshman women as members in our organizations is in contravention of the current sanctions Harvard's administration has

imposed on single-gender social groups. These sanctions have been touted as a response to the recommendations of a report on sexual assault prevention. Yet penalizing our future members for their involvement in a sorority in reality denies them access to member-driven education and support systems shown to be effective in battling sexual assault, as well as alcohol abuse, mental health issues, and the particular challenges inherent in college life. Further, while Harvard's sanctions claim to support women's right to make their own decisions, these sanctions actually force women to choose between the opportunity to have supportive, empowering women-only spaces and external leadership opportunities.

We do understand there are risks inherent in this action, but we provide powerful spaces of support and are determined to work together to demonstrate the value of sorority membership.

About Alpha Phi

Alpha Phi International Fraternity is a sisterhood of outstanding women supporting one another in lifelong achievement. Founded at Syracuse University in 1872, Alpha Phi was one of the first Greek societies for women and was a founding member of the National Panhellenic Conference. The organization is comprised of 171 collegiate chapters and more than 130 alumnae chapters throughout the United States and Canada. The Alpha Phi Foundation is the Fraternity's philanthropic partner, supporting women's heart health and other charitable and educational projects.

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