



Student Assembly

Resolution 36: Addressing Recent Extraordinary Actions of the Federal Government

Abstract: This resolution condemns specific actions recently taken by the Federal Government that impact the student body.

Sponsored by: Saad Razzak '26, Niles Hite '26, Rajat Acharjee '26, Adam Vinson '25, Sowad Ocean Karim '25, Mackenzie Barberis '26, John Purcell '28, Lydia Blum '27, Christian Flournoy '27

Type of Action: Sense-of-the-Body

Originally Presented: 02/27/2025

Current Status: Adopted by the Assembly, 17-3-5, 03/06/2025

Whereas, various colleges at Cornell University depend on federal funding for research funding, including, but not limited to, money distributed by the National Institute of Health, the National Science Foundation, and the Department of Education.

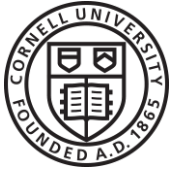
Whereas, the federal government primarily, but not only, through the Department of Government Efficiency, has sought to slash these funding programs and undermine important research.

Whereas, this Assembly has recognized the threat posed by global warming through Resolution 20 which was passed with unanimous consent. The Paris Climate Accords is an important worldwide effort to address the existential danger posed by global warming.

Whereas, on the first day of the second Trump Administration, the Executive Order titled "PUTTING AMERICA FIRST IN INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENTS" withdrew the United States from the Paris Climate Accords.

Whereas, the circumstances leading up to and during the COVID-19 Pandemic demonstrated the vital importance of international cooperation on health-related matters and the World Health Organization (WHO) is the primary forum for this. The COVID-19 Worldwide Pandemic led to massive disruptions in the education and daily lives of Cornell Students, demonstrating the importance of international cooperation on health.

Whereas, on the first day of the second Trump Administration, the Executive Order titled "WITHDRAWING THE UNITED STATES FROM THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION" withdrew the United States from the WHO.



Student Assembly

31 **Whereas**, Cornell has robust Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion policies that move the University
32 toward Ezra Cornell’s vision of “Any person, Any Study”. Cornell’s Diversity and Inclusion
33 Commitment “recognize[s] people with diverse backgrounds and experiences bring great value
34 to education, discovery, creativity, and engagement”¹.

35 **Whereas**, Cornell is a federal grantee and is bound by specific rules and regulations that come
36 with federal money.

37 **Whereas**, On the first day of the second Trump administration, the Executive Order titled
38 “ENDING RADICAL AND WASTEFUL GOVERNMENT DEI PROGRAMS AND
39 PREFERENCING” was issued.

40 **Whereas**, this Executive Order directed the Office of Management and Budget to terminate all
41 DEI Programs in the federal government, contractors, and grantees, including Cornell.

42 **Whereas**, the United States benefits from the liberal international order, including free trade
43 with our allies in Canada and Mexico, as well as our role as a leader on the global stage,
44 including in various international organizations.

45 **Whereas**, these international institutions have strengthened the role of the US as a global leader
46 in research, diplomacy, and finance and have helped cultivate American soft power. This
47 influence has helped make Cornell a globally significant educational institution.

48 **Whereas**, the second Trump administration has sought to undermine these institutions and their
49 functions by imposing trade barriers and eroding the international order.

50 **Whereas**, the United States has become the greatest country in the world due to our Constitution
51 and its institutions and norms, including the separation of powers and checks and balances
52 between the branches of the federal government.

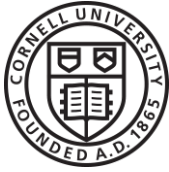
53 **Whereas**, independent agencies within the Executive Branch of the US federal government have
54 a strong impact on the lives of students at Cornell.

55 **Whereas**, independent agencies such as the National Science Foundation provide research
56 funding that is used to employ students and allow them to pursue their own research.

57 **Whereas**, The Environmental Protection Agency, which is an independent agency, is important
58 to combat climate change, to which Cornell is committed.

59 **Whereas**, The National Labor Relations Board, an independent agency, has sought to protect
60 workers in the Ithaca community.

¹ <https://diversity.cornell.edu/our-commitments>



Student Assembly

61 **Whereas**, the nonpartisan nature of these independent agencies is necessary for them to function
62 properly and yet they were brought under partisan oversight by the Executive Order titled
63 “Ensuring Accountability for All Agencies”.

64 **Be it therefore resolved**, the Student Assembly, representing the undergraduate student body of
65 Cornell University, condemns these extraordinary actions of the Executive Branch of the Federal
66 Government.

67 **Be it further resolved**, the Undergraduate Student Assembly recognizes the dangers posed by
68 cuts to various federal agencies, including research funding and support for Diversity, Equity,
69 and Inclusion initiatives.

70 **Be it further resolved**, the Undergraduate Student Assembly calls on Cornell to continue its
71 commitment to establishing a diverse community despite the attacks on Diversity, Equity and
72 Inclusion initiatives.

73 **Be it further resolved**, the Undergraduate Student Assembly calls on Cornell to maintain the
74 position of Vice President of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion position within the Cornell
75 Undergraduate Student Assembly to ensure that the University’s principle of “any person ... any
76 study” continues to be represented within the governing body of Cornell students.

77 **Be it further resolved**, the Undergraduate Student Assembly calls on Cornell University to
78 continue cooperating with international research partners despite the United States’ withdrawal
79 from the World Health Organization.

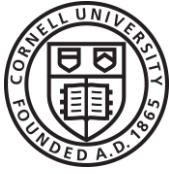
80 **Be it further resolved**, the Undergraduate Student Assembly calls on Cornell University to
81 continue to adhere to the climate goals set forth in Resolution 20, which was passed by the
82 Undergraduate Student Assembly with unanimous consent.

83 **Be it further resolved**, the Undergraduate Student Assembly lauds Cornell University for
84 attempting to protect existing research by joining the lawsuit filed by the Association of
85 American Universities (AAU), the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities (APLU),
86 and the American Council on Education (ACE)².

87 **Be it further resolved**, the University will seek to find alternative sources of funding for
88 research projects and other groups that receive federal grants if their funding is cut to allow them
89 to continue their work.

90 **Be it further resolved**, that the University’s administration work with the Student Assembly to
91 develop resources for those students impacted by the actions of the federal government. We call

²<https://cornellsun.com/2025/02/11/cornell-11-other-universities-sue-nih-after-multi-million-dollar-grant-cuts-announced/>



Student Assembly

92 on the administration of Cornell University to join the Assembly in combating these draconian
93 policies.

94 **Be it further resolved**, the Student Assembly, representing the Undergraduate body at Cornell,
95 calls on the other assemblies of the shared governance structure and the Board of Trustees to join
96 us in condemning these policies.

97 **Be it finally resolved**, the Student Assembly calls on Cornell to continue to follow the law-
98 including, but not limited to, federal and NY state statutes that have been passed by their
99 respective legislatures and signed by the President and Governor respectively and regulations put
100 in place by state and federal agencies pursuant to power delegated to them by the legislature. If a
101 federal executive order tries to force Cornell to violate these laws, the Assembly calls on the
102 University to seek legal action to uphold the law.

103 Respectfully Submitted,

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106 Niles Hite '26

107 *Vice President for Finance of the Student Assembly*

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109 Representative of the Dyson School of Business, *Student Assembly*

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111 *Executive Vice President of the Student Assembly*

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114 Mackenzie Barberis '26

115 Women's Issues Representative at Large, *Student Assembly*

116 John Purcell '28

117 Freshman Representative, *Student Assembly*

118 Lydia Blum '27

119 Representative of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, *Student Assembly*

120 Christian Flournoy '27



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121 *Vice President of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion of the Student Assembly*