

Resolution 20: Dependable and Inclusive Supply of Pharmaceutical and Essential Nonprescription Supplies

Abstract: This resolution (DISPENSE) supports the creation of a pilot program through Cornell Health's Pharmacy for multi-unit vending machines carrying essential nonprescription medicine including emergency contraception to increase health accessibility and health equity on campus.

Sponsored by: Marley Levy '24, Duncan Cady '23, Katherine Esterl '23, Pedro Da Silveira '25, Shelby Williams '25, Victor Wu '25, Andrew Richmond '26, Sanvi Bhardwaj '24, Taisa Strouse '24, Selam Woldai '23, Planned Parenthood Generation Action at Cornell, et al.

Reviewed by: Executive Committee, 02/07/2023.

Type of Action: Recommendation

Originally Presented: 02/09/2023 4-0-2

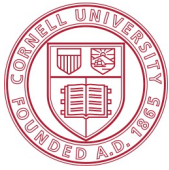
Current Status:

Whereas, Cornell University has long been a pioneer in advancing women's educational opportunities, admitting its first female student in 1870, a mere five years after the University's founding and nearly a century before some of our Ivy League peers like Dartmouth, Yale, and Columbia;

Whereas, Cornell University has also historically been a trailblazer in the study of women's issues and gender justice, celebrating the 50th anniversary of its Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies department last academic year and proudly being the first school in the Ivy League to establish such a program;

Whereas, with the US Supreme Court's decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson's Women's Health Organization* last year, reproductive rights and reproductive health access have been placed in greater jeopardy nationwide, with many Cornell community members feeling that the need for safe and secure access to contraceptives has increased;

Whereas, unplanned and unexpected pregnancy can place a significant burden on students' lives, and the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy published a study



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28 finding as high as 61 percent of pregnant female students dropped out of their academic
29 program¹;

30 **Whereas**, the Cornell Student Assembly has long shown strong and clear support for preserving
31 reproductive rights and health access for all members of the Cornell community, including as
32 recently as last Student Assembly body with Resolution: SA R23: Support for Reproductive
33 Rights adopted unanimously on September 9, 2021 (09/09/2021) specifically calling on “Cornell
34 University to invest more effort into educating the student body on methods of birth control and
35 pregnancy termination services available through Cornell Health and within the greater Ithaca
36 area to empower students with independent control over their own bodies and lives”²;

37 **Whereas**, given the recent legislative action and judicial rulings throughout the United States,
38 this moment necessitates bold and decisive action to preserve reproductive health access at all
39 levels, in all communities, for all people, without shame, danger, fear, or inequities;

40 **Whereas**, equal access to essential healthcare products and services, such as over-the-counter
41 medicines (nonprescription), is a fundamental right of all students regardless of circumstance,
42 identity, or physical location;

43 **Whereas**, Cornell Health has served as a dependable beacon in an otherwise isolated region for
44 students to be treated for various concerns regardless of socioeconomic status, gender identity,
45 expression, race, and other demographic factors;

46 **Whereas**, many residents of the Cornell community live far from the Cornell Health pharmacy
47 on Ho Plaza, with a walk from Robert Purcell Community Center on North Campus taking
48 approximately 20 minutes both ways and a walk from the Vet School on East Campus taking
49 approximately 25 minutes both ways³;

50 **Whereas**, the Cornell Health pharmacy operates under 50 hours a week, limited to only common
51 business hours six days a week⁴;

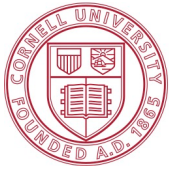
52 **Whereas**, the medical needs of our community members do not cease with the conclusion of the
53 business day;

¹ <https://www.communitycollegereview.com/blog/is-contraception-the-answer-for-college-completion-rates#:~:text=According%20to%20a%20report%20by,end%20up%20finishing%20their%20degrees>

² <https://assembly.cornell.edu/resolutions/sa-r23-support-reproductive-rights>

³ Google Maps

⁴ <https://health.cornell.edu/get-care/hours>



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54 **Whereas**, the nearest retailers to Cornell’s campus for Plan B One-Step (name brand) are CVS
55 Pharmacy, Walgreens, and Target⁵, all of which are more than a 30-minute walk away one way
56 from central campus⁶;

57 **Whereas**, over-the-counter medications, including contraceptives, frequently force students to
58 incur large purchasing costs as well as often travel costs paid in time, money, and health in order
59 to find such medication in proximity to Cornell’s campus;

60 **Whereas**, Planned Parenthood Generation Action (PPGA), an undergraduate student
61 organization registered with Cornell University Campus Groups (also affiliated with Planned
62 Parenthood), conducted independent research over the last semester on interests and engagement
63 around an emergency contraceptive vending machine that would “discreetly”, and “accessibly”
64 offer Plan B⁷, with all research referenced included voluntarily in Appendix A;

65 **Whereas**, PPGA’s Fall 2022 research used a Qualtrics survey with over seven hundred (700)
66 voluntary respondents across the Cornell Community⁸;

67 **Whereas**, the survey conducted among Cornell University students revealed a significant need
68 for emergency contraception access on campus, with 53.3% respondents answering that they
69 have accessed emergency contraception for themselves or others in the past and an
70 overwhelming 86.8% of respondents answering that they “strongly agree” that they will need to
71 access emergency contraceptives in the future⁹;

72 **Whereas**, current access to emergency contraception on campus is limited due to pharmacy
73 operating hours, with only 16.9% of respondents accessing contraceptives through Cornell
74 Health and the majority of respondents, 45.5%, being forced to rely on off-campus pharmacies
75 that offer less affordable and potentially cost-prohibitive options¹⁰;

76 **Whereas**, PPGA’s survey shows a high demand for the expansion of campus-based access to
77 emergency contraception, with 66.5% of respondents feeling “very comfortable” accessing
78 contraceptives from a vending machine operated by Cornell Health¹¹;

79 **Whereas**, this model has proven successful across other universities with Shippensburg
80 University in Pennsylvania became the first colleges in the United States to provide students with
81 equal access to contraceptives in a vending machine format in 2012¹²;

⁵ <https://www.planbonestep.com/where-to-buy-plan-b/>

⁶ Google Maps

⁷ Appendix A – PPGA Qualtrics Survey Research

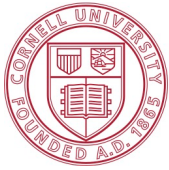
⁸ Appendix A – PPGA Qualtrics Survey Research

⁹ Appendix A – PPGA Qualtrics Survey Research

¹⁰ Appendix A – PPGA Qualtrics Survey Research

¹¹ Appendix A – PPGA Qualtrics Survey Research

¹² <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/09/28/us/plan-b-vending-machine.html>



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82 **Whereas**, the Purdue University pharmacy funds and supplies a vending machine that dispenses
83 common and basic over-the-counter medications such as pain relief, fever reducers, allergy
84 relief, cold/cough/flu medicine, gastrointestinal medicine, as well as contraceptives and other
85 sexual wellness products¹³;

86 **Whereas**, peer institutions, including University of California Davis¹⁴, Boston University¹⁵,
87 University of Florida¹⁶, George Washington University¹⁷, Brandeis University¹⁸, and many
88 more¹⁹, have already launched similar programs in their respective campus vending machines
89 across the country, including in states with varying reproductive healthcare access;

90 **Whereas**, Ivy League peer institutes like Dartmouth²⁰, Yale²¹, and Columbia²² who once
91 followed Cornell's leadership on issues of gender justice, all of whom were nearly a century
92 behind Cornell in admitting non-male students²³, have now outpaced our campus on essential
93 reproductive healthcare access;

94 **Whereas**, Cornell has existing business relations with multiple vending machine firms with
95 operation in the Ithaca area, specifically having "nearly 300 vending machines throughout
96 campus" and "in off-campus Cornell facilities in the Ithaca area"²⁴;

97 **Whereas**, Cornell University installed twelve (12) dependable Vengo vending machines in 2017
98 in locations such as Robert Purcell Community Center and Appel Commons that possess the
99 capabilities to dispense items such as Advil and other OTC medications²⁵;
100

101 **Whereas**, Stanford University specifically employs a similar machine made by Vengo Labs that
102 provides students with twenty-four (24) access to emergency contraception and other sexual
103 wellness products²⁶;

13 <https://www.purdue.edu/rx/faq.php>

14 <https://www.cnn.com/2017/04/21/health/davis-plan-b-machine-trnd/index.html>

15 <https://www.bu.edu/articles/2022/new-plan-b-vending-machine-in-gsu/>

16 <https://www.foxnews.com/us/university-florida-student-government-oks-plan-b-vending-machines-morning-pill>

17

18 <https://www.boston25news.com/news/plan-b-vending-machine-opens-at-brandeis-university/941130248/>

19 <https://www.bostonglobe.com/2022/07/31/metro/after-roe-v-wade-more-college-students-want-contraception-vending-machines-campus/>

20 <https://students.dartmouth.edu/health-service/pharmacy/vending-pharmacy-dicks-house>

21 <https://yaledailynews.com/blog/2018/11/29/ycc-launches-plan-b-vending-machine/>

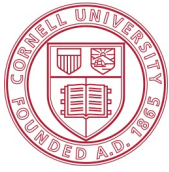
22 <https://columbiachronicle.com/437de6c1-35ae-5c44-abfb-09645ba3a1ae>

23 <https://rnc.library.cornell.edu/cornell150/exhibition/sexcolor/index.html#:~:text=In%20the%20fall%20of%201871,officially%20voted%20to%20admit%20women>

24 <https://scl.cornell.edu/residential-life/dining/eateries-menus/vending-machines>

25 <https://cornellsun.com/2017/03/07/partnership-between-vengo-labs-and-the-cornell-store-brings-new-vending-machines-around-campus/>

26 <https://www.theverge.com/2019/2/11/18216209/contraception-campus-vending-machines-day-after-pill-plan-b>



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104 **Whereas**, Cornell Health’s pharmacy already sells “Progestin-only emergency contraception
105 such as *Plan B* [generic], *Plan B One Step*, *Next Choice*, and *Levonorgestrel Tablets*... without a
106 prescription”²⁷;

107 **Whereas**, generic brand Plan B is currently offered at the Cornell Health pharmacy for only \$10
108 (ten dollars), nearly five (5) times less than the average price of \$40-\$50 for a single-dose pill of
109 many name brands of Plan B One-Step at local major pharmacies, therefore, the installation of
110 the medicine in such machines is unlikely to pose significant additional burden to the
111 institution²⁸;

112 **Whereas**, providing readily available over-the-counter medications through vending machines
113 will ensure that all students have immediate, private, and equitable access to essential healthcare
114 products regardless of schedules or commitments, reducing barriers to access for students who
115 face difficulties obtaining such medicines due to factors like limited access to transportation and
116 store hours, and ensuring that they have the autonomy to control their own healthcare decisions;

117 **Be it therefore resolved**, that the Cornell Student Assembly believes it is necessary for Cornell
118 Health to equitably expand access to essential over-the-counter nonprescription drugs and
119 emergency contraceptives that support the overall health and wellbeing of all community
120 members;

121 **Be it further resolved**, Cornell Health should follow the growing movement²⁹ of accessible
122 emergency contraceptive and other over-the-counter nonprescription drugs in twenty-four (24)
123 hour accessible vending machines that include products ranging from pain and fever relief,
124 stomach illness relief, and other relevant over-the-counter medication like our peer institutions³⁰;

125 **Be it further resolved**, the vending machines should be placed in places that are public yet still
126 discrete enough to protect the user’s privacy and priced at rates that closely mirror those of the
127 in-person Cornell Health pharmacy;

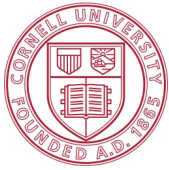
128 **Be it further resolved**, Cornell Health should include relevant accompanying educational
129 material around seasonal illness health, health promotion, mental health, sexual health (including
130 but not limited to information on STD prevention, birth control, reproductive health and the
131 subsequent available resources on reproductive right both inside Cornell Health and around the
132 Ithaca area) with vending machines to support campus wide health promotion;

²⁷ <https://health.cornell.edu/resources/health-topics/sexual-health-relationships#:~:text=Available%20without%20a%20prescription%3A,Health%20pharmacy%20without%20a%20prescription>

²⁸ <https://www.plannedparenthood.org/learn/morning-after-pill-emergency-contraception/whats-plan-b-morning-after-pill#:~:text=How%20Much%20Does%20Plan%20B,online%20for%20%2420%20%2B%20%245%20shipping>

²⁹ <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/newsletters/2022-09-01/emergency-contraception-is-coming-to-us-vending-machines>

³⁰ Appendix B – Peer Institution Vending Machine Offerings



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133 **Be it further resolved**, the co-signed hope that the Cornell University Assemblies and Shared
134 Governance system, in accordance with their receptive chartered responsibilities as entrusted by
135 the Cornell community, Board of Trustees, and University President will be able to stay in an
136 advisory and community based accountability role to continue to support Cornell Health and the
137 Cornell Health pharmacy in overseeing this major university policy initiative and supporting the
138 Cornell community's wellbeing on this issue of health access, health equity, reproductive rights,
139 and reproductive health;

140 **Be it finally resolved**, that Cornell Health and the Cornell Central Administration recognize the
141 hard work organizing and advocating for this issue by Planned Parenthood Generation Action
142 (PPGA) and other student organizations stakeholders through this pilot program, ensuring that
143 emergency contraceptive and other reproductive rights educational material are always included;

144 *Respectfully Submitted,*

145 Duncan Allen Cady

146 *Chair, University Assembly*

147 Katherine Esterl & Taisa Strouse

148 *Planned Parenthood Generation Action, Co-Presidents*

149 Marley Levy

150 *Planned Parenthood Generation Action, Project Lead*

151 Pedro Da Silveira

152 *VP Internal Operations, Student Assembly*

153 Shelby Williams

154 *College of Arts and Sciences Rep, Student Assembly*

155 *Victor Wu '25*

156 *Undergraduate Voting Member, Student Health Advisory Committee*

157 Andrew Richmond

158 *Freshman Rep, Student Assembly*

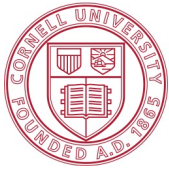
159 Sanvi Bhardwaj

160 *College of Human Ecology Rep, Student Assembly*

161 Selam Woldai

162 *Undergraduate Student-Elected Trustee, Board of Trustees*

163 Planned Parenthood Generation Action at Cornell



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164 Appendix A – PPGA Qualtrics Survey Research

165 Q1 – I am a ...

#	Field	Choice Count
1	Cornell undergraduate student	87.76% 624
2	Cornell graduate and/or professional student	3.80% 27
3	Cornell staff member	1.13% 8
4	Cornell faculty member	0.42% 3
5	non-Cornell Ithaca resident	1.41% 10
6	Other	5.49% 39
		711

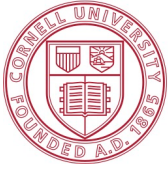
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167 Q2 - Have you ever accessed emergency contraception for yourself or another person?

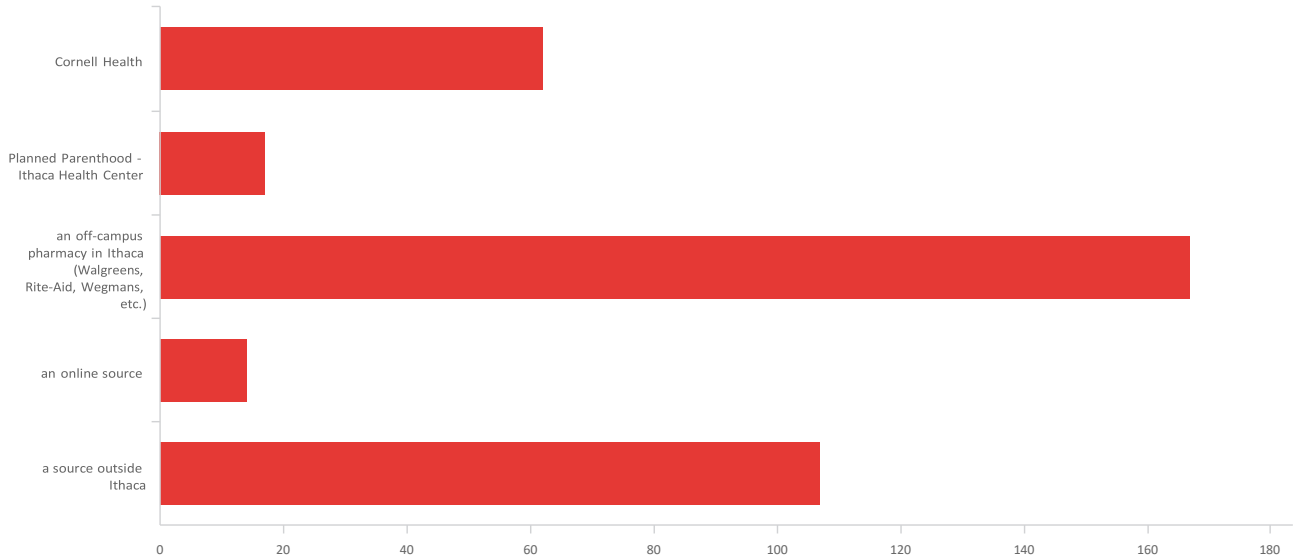
#	Field	Choice Count
1	Yes	53.34% 319
2	No	46.66% 279
		598

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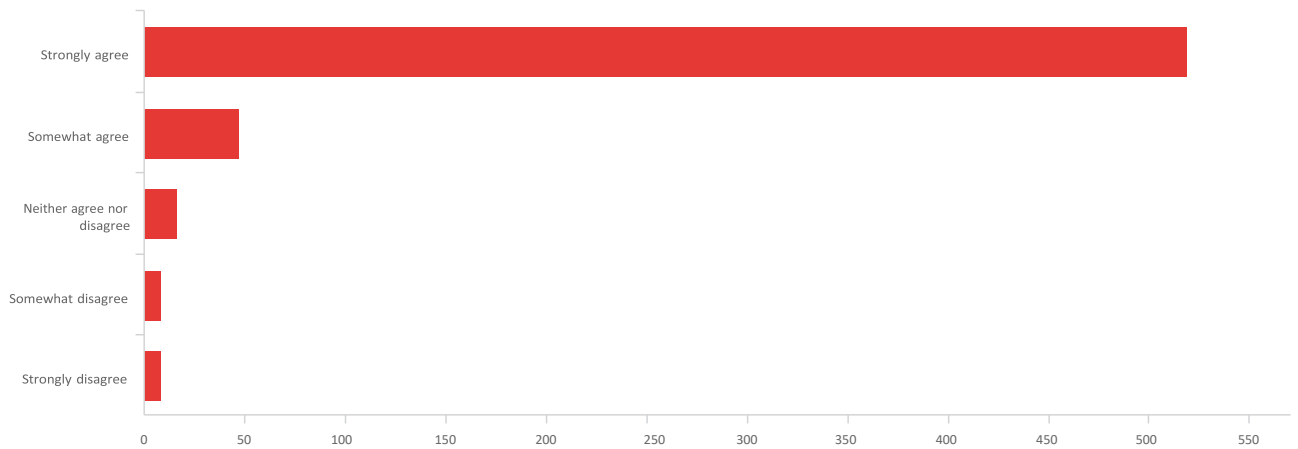
169 Q3 – [omitted for relevance]



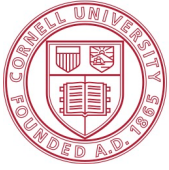
170 Q4 - I accessed emergency contraception, for myself or someone else, at ...



171 Q5 - I would consider accessing emergency contraception for myself or another person in the future.
172



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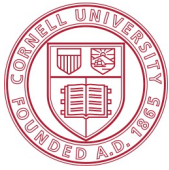


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174 Q6 - How comfortable would you feel accessing emergency contraception, for yourself or someone else,
175 from a campus vending machine operated by Cornell Health?

#	Field	Choice Count	
1	Very comfortable	66.48%	357
2	Somewhat comfortable	23.84%	128
3	Neither comfortable nor uncomfortable	2.42%	13
4	Somewhat uncomfortable	3.91%	21
5	Very uncomfortable	3.35%	18
			537

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177 Appendix B – Peer Institution Vending Machine Offerings

Medication:	Purdue University	Johns Hopkins University	University of California, Davis	Dartmouth College	George Washington University
Contraceptives/Sexual Wellness:					
Emergency Contraceptive (Plan B)	X	X	X	X	X
Condoms	x	x	x	x	
Pregnancy Tests	x	x	x	x	
Tampons		x	x	x	x
Pain/Fever:					
Ibuprofen (Advil)	x	x	x	x	x
Acetaminophen (Tylenol)	x	x	x	x	x
Naproxen (Aleve)		x		x	
Allergy/Cold/Cough/Flu:					
Loratadine (Claritin)	x	x	x	x	
Banophen (Benadryl)	x	x		x	
Oxymetazoline (Afrin)		x		x	
Cough Drops	x			x	
Stomach Symptoms:					
Bismuth Subsalicylate (Pepto-Bismol)	x	x		x	
Calcium Carbonate (TUMS)	x	x		x	
Dimenhydrinate (Dramamine)	x	x			
Others:					
Eye Drops (Visine)	x			x	
Ear Drops				x	
Bacitracin Zinc (Neosporin)		x			
Melatonin		x			
Terbinafine (Athlete's Foot Cream)		x			
Hydrocortisone Cream	x	x		x	

178