

Resolution 42: A Resolution in Support of Amending the Student Suicide Prevention Act

Abstract: A resolution to join other student governments in calling the NY State Senate to amend the Student Suicide Prevention Act to include protections for college students.

Sponsored by: Adam Vinson '25, Amy Wang '26, Niles Hite '26, Zora DeRham '27, Nick Weising '24, Ocean Karim '25

Reviewed by: Student Health Advisory Committee, 11/28/2023, 10-0-0

Type of Action: Sent to the body

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Current Status: *New Business*

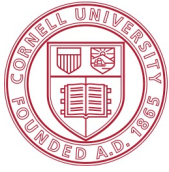
Whereas, New York State (NYS) has failed to enact any law requiring colleges and universities to develop comprehensive suicide prevention plans for their students.

Whereas, a state-level bill titled the Student Suicide Prevention Act (SSPA), known as Assembly Bill A4788¹ and Senate Bill S1537², has been proposed in the NYS Legislature to mandate the implementation of these resources for students in public 7-12 schools, but fails to address the similar needs of students attending nonpublic schools or NYS colleges and universities.

Whereas, a coalition of collegiate student governments across the state, organized by SUNY Stony Brook student Vignesh Subramanian and the Stony Brook Undergraduate Student Government (USG), is calling for the SSPA to be expanded in scope to include higher education institutions. Over twenty student governments have approved sister resolutions expressing support for this initiative and urging

¹ <https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2023/A4788>

² <https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2023/S1537>



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their respective state lawmakers to take action. Cornell's Student Assembly has been invited to join said coalition.

Whereas, the topic of student suicide prevention is especially relevant to Cornell University, which has been recognized as a particularly high-stress academic environment for many students and as a school with an extended and painful history of student suicides.

Be it therefore resolved, that the Cornell Student Assembly stands in solidarity with dozens of student governments across the state in support of the coalition's proposed amendments to the SSPA.

Be it further resolved, that in acknowledgment of the fact that the vast majority of partnering student governments are located downstate, this Assembly urges the student leaders of other universities in Western New York to join us in support of the amendment and passage of the SSPA, in both an effort to promote the legislation and to increase the student body's ties to neighboring universities.

Be it further resolved, that this Assembly calls upon NYS lawmakers representing this campus and its students to work collaboratively with their colleagues to expedite the revision and passage of the SSPA, before the current legislative session ends in June 2024.

Respectfully Submitted,

Adam Vinson '25

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Representative, Student Assembly

Amy Wang '26

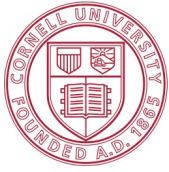
College of Engineering Representative, Student Assembly

Niles Hite '26

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Representative, Student Assembly

Zora DeRham '27

Freshmen Representative, Student Assembly



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Nick Weising '24

President, Cornell Democrats

Ocean Karim '25

Communications Director, Cornell Democrats