



1 **Resolution 23: Support for Reproductive Rights**

2 **Abstract:** This resolution is in reaction to Texas Senate Bill 8 (SB8), a recently passed piece of
3 legislation that limits access to healthcare in the form of abortion, infringing upon the
4 constitutionally protected reproductive rights of Americans and endangering the health of
5 pregnant people.

6 **Sponsored by:** Samantha Heller '23, Helena Brittain '22, Isabelle Goodrow '24, Rachel Jacob
7 '23, Annette Gleiberman '22, Anuli Ononye '22, Amari Lampert '24, Duncan Cady '23, Joseph
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9 **Reviewed by:** Executive Committee, 09/07/2021, 5-0-1

10 **Type of Action:** Legislation/Internal Policy/Investigation/Recommendation/Sense-of-the-
11 Body/Referenda

12 **Originally Presented:** 09/09/2021

13 **Current Status:** New Business

14 **Whereas,** on September 1st, 2021, a law was enacted in the state of Texas that deputizes citizens
15 to sue doctors, medical providers, or any other persons who assist a person in obtaining an
16 abortion upon reaching approximately six weeks of pregnancy¹;

17
18 **Whereas,** research reveals that 5.5 weeks gestational age is the typical time that people become
19 aware of their pregnancy²;

20
21 **Whereas,** this legislation makes no exceptions for victims of rape or incest³, forcing victims
22 (including minors) to carry and give birth to their attacker's pregnancy;

23
24 **Whereas,** approximately 85% of abortions that occur in Texas are now declared illegal⁴,
25 effectively barring most individuals from obtaining an abortion in the state of Texas;

26
27 **Whereas,** this legislation will disproportionately impact low-income communities and
28 subsequently communities of color who are more likely to lack the financial resources to not
29 only afford the procedure, but also travel out of state to obtain it⁵;

1 <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/09/01/health/texas-abortion-law-facts.html>

2 <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5269518/>

3 <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/09/01/health/texas-abortion-law-facts.html>

4 <https://www.texastribune.org/2021/09/03/texas-republican-abortion-civil-lawsuits/>

5 <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/09/01/health/texas-abortion-law-facts.html>



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31 **Whereas**, the authors of this bill may claim to be acting out of “pro-life” beliefs, but restricting
32 access to legal abortion is connected to increased instances of mortality among desperate
33 individuals who undergo unsafe self-managed abortions⁶;

34
35 **Whereas**, estimates of maternal mortality in Texas more than doubled between 2010 and 2012⁷,
36 a period when the state enacted cuts to providers of reproductive health care and clinics
37 providing abortion care and other reproductive healthcare services were forced to close;

38
39 **Whereas**, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists has stated that SB8
40 “represents a clear attack on the practice of medicine in our country and on decades of
41 established legal precedent”⁸;

42
43 **Whereas**, the United States Supreme Court voted 5-4 to reject a motion that would have blocked
44 SB8 from going into effect⁹;

45
46 **Whereas**, polling by the Pew Research Center¹⁰ and Quinnipiac University¹¹ respectively has
47 shown that about 60% of US adults, including 60% of Texan voters, say that abortion should be
48 legal in all or most cases;

49
50 **Whereas**, by ignoring overwhelming public opinion on a topic that is often profoundly
51 influenced by personal religious beliefs, the decisions made by the Texas legislature and US
52 Supreme Court represent an affront to our democracy and carefully held values, particularly the
53 separation of church and state, while also defying the legal precedent regarding rightful
54 termination of pregnancies as decided by *Roe v. Wade*¹²;

55
56 **Be it therefore resolved**, the Cornell Student Assembly decrees this legislation a threat to the
57 bodily autonomy and personal health of Texans and a severe violation of democratic principles
58 and judicial procedure;

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⁶ <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/women/reports/2018/06/13/451891/limiting-abortion-access-contributes-poor-maternal-health-outcomes/>

⁷ <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/women/reports/2018/06/13/451891/limiting-abortion-access-contributes-poor-maternal-health-outcomes/>

⁸ <https://www.acog.org/news/news-releases/2021/09/statement-on-texas-sb8>

⁹ <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/09/01/us/supreme-court-texas-abortion.html>

¹⁰ <https://www.pewforum.org/fact-sheet/public-opinion-on-abortion/>

¹¹ <https://poll.qu.edu/Poll-Release-Legacy?releaseid=2560>

¹² <https://www.acog.org/news/news-releases/2021/09/statement-on-texas-sb8>



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60 **Be it further resolved**, the Student Assembly formally calls upon Cornell University to invest
61 more effort into educating the student body on methods of birth control and pregnancy
62 termination services available through Cornell Health and within the greater Ithaca area to
63 empower students with independent control over their own bodies and lives;

64
65 **Be it finally resolved**, the Cornell Student Assembly stands in solidarity with our approximately
66 700 undergraduate and graduate level peers from the state of Texas¹³ who may be directly or
67 indirectly negatively impacted by this legislation.

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69 Respectfully Submitted,

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71 Samantha Heller '23

72 *Co-President, Planned Parenthood Generation Action (PPGA)*

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74 Helena Brittain '22

75 *Co-President, PPGA*

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77 Rachel Jacob '23

78 *PR Chair, PPGA*

79
80 Annette Gleiberman '22

81 *Vice President of External Operations, Student Assembly*

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83 Anuli Ononye '22

84 *President, Student Assembly*

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86 Amari Lampert '24

87 *Womxn's Issues Liaison At-Large, Student Assembly*

88
89 Duncan Cady '23

90 *Students with Disabilities Representative At-Large, Student Assembly*

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92 Joseph Mullen '24

93 *Vice President of Internal Operations, Student Assembly*

¹³ <https://irp.dpb.cornell.edu/university-factbook/student-enrollment>