

Resolution 5: Dependable and Inclusive Supply of Pharmaceutical and Essential Nonprescription Supplies

Abstract: This resolution 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: Michelle Heeney, Kate Carter-Cram, Shelby Williams, Duncan Cady, Katherine Esterl, Victor Wu, Planned Parenthood Generation Action at Cornell, et al.

Reviewed by: Last addition, 02/07/2023.

Originally Presented: 02/07/2023.

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;

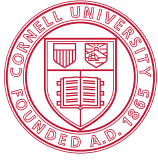
Whereas, Cornell University has also historically been a trailblazer in the study of women’s issues and gender justice, celebrating the 50th anniversary of its Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies department last academic year and proudly being the first school in the Ivy League to establish such 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 finding as high as 61 percent of pregnant female students dropped out of their academic program¹;

Whereas, the Cornell Student Assembly has long shown strong and clear support for preserving reproductive rights and health access for all members of the Cornell community, including as recently as last Student Assembly body with Resolution: SA R23: Support for Reproductive Rights adopted unanimously on September 9, 2021 (09/09/2021) specifically calling on “Cornell University to invest more effort into educating the student body on methods of birth control and pregnancy

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>



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31 termination services available through Cornell Health and within the greater Ithaca area to empower
32 students with independent control over their own bodies and lives”²;

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

36 **Whereas**, equal access to essential healthcare products and services, such as over-the-counter
37 medicines (non-prescription), is a fundamental right of all students regardless of circumstance,
38 identity, or physical location;

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

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

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

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

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

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

56 **Whereas**, Planned Parenthood Generation Action (PPGA), an undergraduate student organization
57 registered with Cornell University Campus Groups (also affiliated with Planned Parenthood),
58 conducted independent research over the last semester on interests and engagement around an

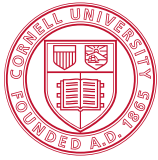
² <https://assembly.cornell.edu/resolutions/sa-r23-support-reproductive-rights>

³ Google Maps

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

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

⁶ Google Maps



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59 emergency contraceptive vending machine that would “discreetly”, and “accessibly” offer Plan B⁷,
60 with all research referenced included voluntarily in Appendix A;

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

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

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

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

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

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

82 **Whereas**, peer institutions, including University of California Davis¹⁴, Boston University¹⁵,
83 University of Florida¹⁶, George Washington University¹⁷, Brandeis University¹⁸, and many more¹⁹,

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>

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

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

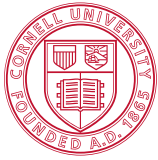
¹⁵ <https://www.bu.edu/articles/2022/new-plan-b-vending-machine-in-gsu/>

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

¹⁷ <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2023/jan/30/george-washington-university-emergency-contraception-vending-machine>

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/>



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84 have already launched similar programs in their respective campus vending machines across the
85 country, including in states with varying reproductive healthcare access;

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

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

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

95
96 **Whereas**, Stanford University specifically employs a similar machine made by Vengo Labs that
97 provides students with twenty-four (24) access to emergency contraception and other sexual
98 wellness products²⁶;

99 **Whereas**, Cornell Health's pharmacy already sells "Progestin-only emergency contraception such as
100 *Plan B* [generic], *Plan B One Step*, *Next Choice*, and *Levonorgestrel Tablets*... without a prescription"²⁷;

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

105 **Whereas**, providing readily available over-the-counter medications through vending machines will
106 ensure that all students have immediate, private, and equitable access to essential healthcare products
107 regardless of schedules or commitments, reducing barriers to access for students who face

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

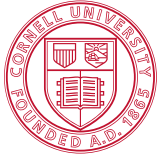
²⁴ <https://scl.cornell.edu/residential-life/dining/eateries-menus/vending-machines>

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>

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>



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108 difficulties obtaining such medicines due to factors like limited access to transportation and store
109 hours, and ensuring that they have the autonomy to control their own healthcare decisions;

110 **Be it therefore resolved,** that the Cornell University Assembly believes it is necessary for Cornell
111 Health to equitably expand access to over-the-counter non-prescription drugs and emergency
112 contraceptives that support the overall health and wellbeing of all community members;

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

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

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

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

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

136 *Respectfully Submitted,*

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138 Shelby Williams

139 *Student Assembly Rep and Undergraduate Rep, University Assembly*

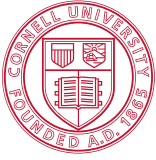
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141 Michelle Heeney

142 *Vice President for Communications of Graduate and Professional Student Assembly*

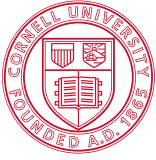
²⁹ <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/newsletters/2022-09-01/emergency-contraception-is-coming-to-us-vending-machines>

³⁰ Appendix B – Peer Institution Vending Machine Offerings



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- 143
144 Kate Carter-Cram
145 *President of Graduate and Professional Student Assembly*
146
147 Duncan Allen Cady
148 *Chair, University Assembly*
149
150 Katherine Esterl, Taisa Strouse, & Marley Levy
151 *Planned Parenthood Generation Action at Cornell, Co-President & Project Lead*
152
153 Victor Wu
154 *Undergraduate Voting Member, Student Health Advisory Committee*
155
156 Selam Woldai
157 *Undergraduate Student-Elected Trustee, Board of Trustees*
158
158 Planned Parenthood Generation Action at Cornell



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159 Appendix A – PPGA Qualtrics Survey Research

160 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

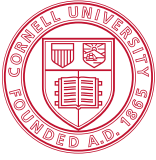
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162 Q2 - Have you ever accessed emergency contraception for yourself or another person?

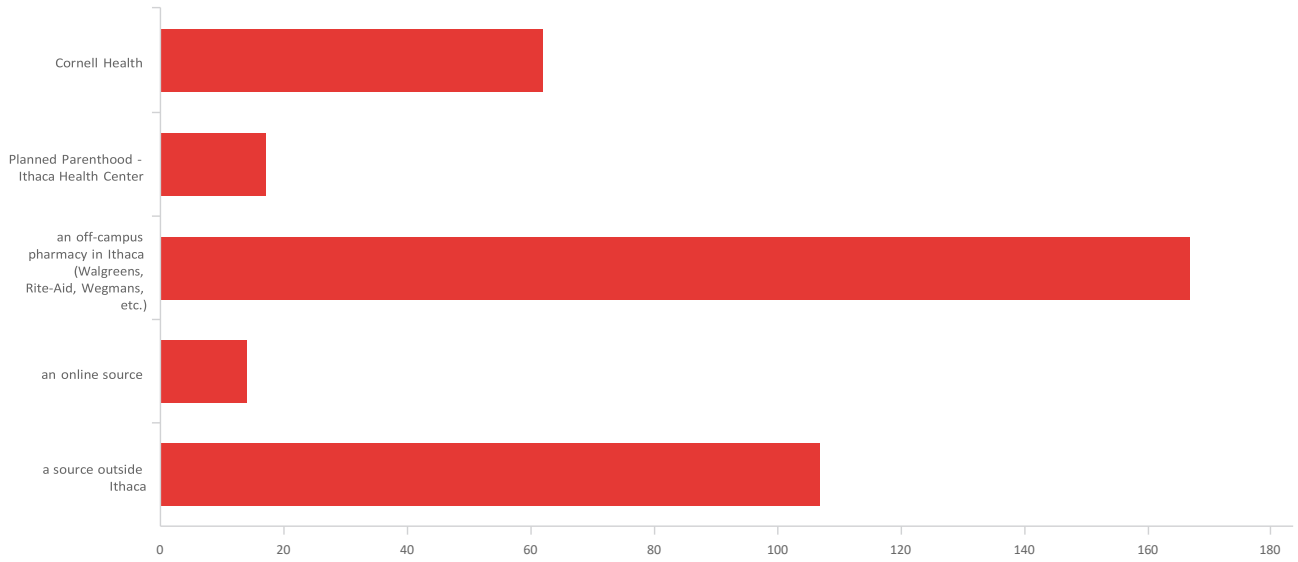
#	Field	Choice Count
1	Yes	53.34% 319
2	No	46.66% 279

163 598

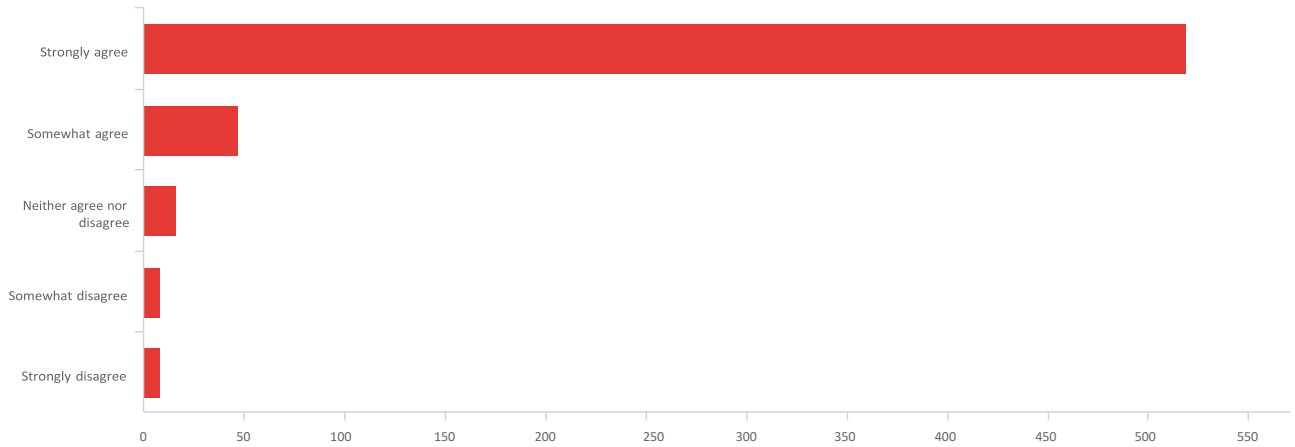
164 Q3 – [omitted for relevance]



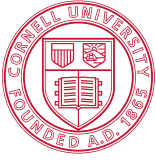
165 Q4 - I accessed emergency contraception, for myself or someone else, at ...



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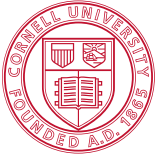


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169 Q6 - How comfortable would you feel accessing emergency contraception, for yourself or someone else,
170 from a campus vending machine operated by Cornell Health?

#	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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172 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	

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