

Memorandum

TO: Voting Members of the Student Assembly

FROM: Anna Lubitz, *Vice President (Acting)*

DATE: October 12, 2013

SUBJECT: Resolution 1314-36: Adoption of the Blood Donor Equality Resolution

I submit to the Student Assembly of the State University of New York the following resolution for consideration:

Whereas, blood drives are active across SUNY campuses and a diverse population of students, faculty, staff and community members participate in these blood drives;

Whereas, there is a permanent ban by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to not allow men who have had sexual relations with other men since 1977, (whether bisexual, homosexual or experimentation) to donate blood, because of a fear of HIV/AIDS transmission;

Whereas, according to the FDA, chances of receiving HIV from a blood transfusion are approximately 1 in 2,000,000 and detection of HIV/AIDS is more precise and accurate today;

Whereas, this ban has been supported by the federal government since 1985;

Whereas, thousands of MSM (men who have had sex with other men) already donate their blood and simply choose not to admit to their sexual activity on the donor questionnaire;

Whereas, organizations such as the American Medical Association (AMA), the Association of Academic Health Centers (AAHC), the American Red Cross, the American Associate of Blood Banks (AABB), and America's Blood Centers (ABC) have all spoken out in favor of the removal of this lifetime ban for the MSM (men who have had sex with other men) demographic;

Whereas, anyone (i.e. students, faculty, staff, community members) with healthy blood should be allowed to save lives without discrimination based on sexual orientation;

Whereas, Stony Brook University has received official support from its Administration, and is in support of the blood donor equality initiative and strongly urges SUNY campuses to join in the effort.

Resolved that the SUNY Student Assembly recognizes the need for a call to action to support a blood donor equality awareness campaign across all SUNY campuses.

Resolved, that a campaign and call to action would include, but is not limited to, petitions and written statements to reach out to the local and national governmental systems in support to repeal the ban that was enacted in 1985 by the FDA.

Resolved, that each SUNY campus has the option to take on this initiative, and in their own method, raise awareness in a call to action.

Resolved, that copies of this resolution be distributed widely, including, but not limited to, the SUNY Board of Trustees, SUNY Chancellor Nancy L. Zimpher, University Faculty Senate, Faculty Council of Community Colleges, SUNY Campus Presidents, and SUNY Student Government Associations.