



MEMORANDUM

November 9, 2013

TO: Members of the Student Assembly
FROM: Anna Lubitz, Vice President (Acting)
SUBJECT: Blood Donor Equality

I recommend that the Student Assembly adopt the following resolution:

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

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; and

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; and

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

Whereas thousands of MSM already donate their blood and simply choose not to admit to their sexual activity on the donor questionnaire; and

Whereas organizations such as the American Medical Association (AMA), the Association of Academic Health Centers (AAHC), the American Red Cross, the American Association 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; and

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

Whereas Stony Brook University has received official support from its Administration, and is in support of the blood donor equality

initiative and strongly urges its SUNY siblings to join in the effort;
now, therefore, be it

Resolved that the SUNY Student Assembly recognizes the need for
a call to action to support a blood donor equality campaign across
all SUNY campuses; and finally be it

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