



MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the Executive Committee

**FROM: Anna C. LuBitz, Representative
Scott P. Turner, Representative**

DATE: October 18, 2014

SUBJECT: Blood Donor Equality

I recommend that the Student Assembly of the State University of New York 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 Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) transmission, and;

Whereas, women who have had sexual relations with men who have had sexual relations with another man (whether bisexual, homosexual or experimentation) are deferred from giving blood for 12 months since the last sexual contact with the individual, and;

Whereas, according to the FDA, chances of receiving HIV from a blood transfusion are approximately 1 in 2,000,000, and;

Whereas, the detection of HIV/AIDS is more precise and accurate today with an ELISA/Western Blot antigen test taking 1 to 3 weeks to show up positive after infection, and;

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

Whereas, organizations such as the American Medical Association (AMA), the American Red Cross (ARC), 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, and;

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

Whereas, an advisory group for the FDA reevaluated the policy in 2010 and said the ban was suboptimal and that research would have to be done to be done to create a new policy, and;

Whereas, new evidence was presented to the advisory group in 2013 that called for a reevaluation of the life time ban, and;

Whereas, in the National Health Interview Survey 67% of people who identified as gay had HIV testing done compared to 37% of the population that identifies as straight, and;

Whereas, other countries have already lifted the lifetime ban in favor of a deferral process or full acceptance, 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.

*Supporting Documentation is Attached

Paragraph 1- None

Paragraph 2- FDA Questionnaire; FDA

Paragraph 3- FDA Questionnaire, FDA

Paragraph 4- FDA (This seem to be where they got their information)

Paragraph 5- <http://www.sfaf.org/hiv-info/testing/hiv-test-window-periods.html>

Paragraph 6- FDA

Paragraph 7- <http://www.redcross.org/news/press-release/Statement-Regarding-National-Gay-Blood-Drive> (Covers AABB, ABC, ARC),

<http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2014/07/11/activists-fight-antiquated-policy-with-national-gay-blood-drive.html> (covers AMA), I could not find anything about AAHC unless it came from the SUNY system, but multiple schools have it.

Paragraph 8- None

Paragraph 9- <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2013/dec/1/with-new-hiv-research-fda-may-let-gay-men-donate-b/?page=all>

Paragraph 10- <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2013/dec/1/with-new-hiv-research-fda-may-let-gay-men-donate-b/?page=all>

Paragraph 11- http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/health-survey-gives-government-its-first-large-scale-data-on-gay-bisexual-population/2014/07/14/2db9f4b0-092f-11e4-bbf1-cc51275e7f8f_story.html

Paragraph 12-

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Men_who_have_sex_with_men_blood_donor_controversy (I checked all the links, but this seemed like the easiest way for them to be in one spot)

Paragraph 13- None