



The State University of New York  
Student Assembly

**Resolution 1516-109**  
Purchase Student Government

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**RESOLUTION 1516-109**

**TO: State University of New York Student General Assembly**

**FROM: Purchase Student Government**

**DATE: April 15th 2016**

**SUBJECT: Stance against CORCRAFT as a Preferred Source**

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**Action Requested**

We recommend that the Executive Committee of the Student Assembly of the State University of New York (SUNYSA) adopt the following resolution:

**Resolution**

Whereas New York State banned the implementation and existence of private prisons in the state through NY Corrections Law §§120 and 121 which were passed in 2007 and implemented in 2009; and,

Whereas in New York, we have seventy-seven thousand individuals incarcerated in fifty-five non-private prison facilities; and,

Whereas in New York, during the time these individuals are incarcerated, 2100 of them are enlisted in the correctional industries programs *CORCRAFT*; and,

Whereas *CORCRAFT* is financially attached to SUNY through state finance law section 163 subsection 3 (l) which lists *CORCRAFT* as a *preferred source*; and,

Whereas on the *preferred source* list, *CORCRAFT* is listed first, and therefore given priority over all other *preferred sources* including NYS PREFERRED SOURCE PROGRAM FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE BLIND (NYSPSP) and NEW YORK STATE INDUSTRIES FOR THE DISABLED, INC; and,

Whereas *CORCRAFT*'s mission is: "to employ offenders in substantive jobs that help teach good work habits and valuable work skills, to help offset the cost of incarceration, to help reduce disruption in the prison environment and to meet expectations of the citizens;" and,

Whereas *CORCRAFT*'s operations resemble the foundation of private prison institution practices in their function as a mass-manufacturing entity which exploits incarcerated individuals' situations for cheap labor by paying them grossly below minimum wage; and,

Whereas *CORCRAFT*'s mission resembles the institutionalized beliefs of private prison practices in their stance that incarcerated individuals are responsible to help offset the cost of their own imprisonment; and,

Whereas the existence of these extremely cheap labor positions in prisons creates a demand for incarcerated individuals to fill them so that *CORCRAFT* can fulfill the obligation of its preferred source status to the State; therefore making *CORCRAFT* function as an entity which incentivizes incarceration; and,

Whereas SUNY is one of the largest consumers of *CORCRAFT* made products; and,

Whereas SUNY is forced to financially perpetuate the existence of this New York State prison system practice through mandated procurement; and,

Whereas without *CORCRAFT*'s preferred source status, SUNY Colleges as well as any other state institution will have the ability to refrain from purchasing these products if a particular school disagrees with the practices which the organization engages in; and,

Whereas in removing *CORCRAFT* from its preferred source status, it would allow the other preferred sources such NYS PREFERRED SOURCE PROGRAM FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE BLIND (NYSPSP) and NEW YORK STATE INDUSTRIES FOR THE DISABLED, INC. (NYCID) to gain priority within the preferred source procurement process; therefore, be it,

Resolved that the Student Assembly of the State University of New York adopt the stance that preferred source status in the case of *CORCRAFT* must be revoked; and be it,

Resolved that the Executive Committee of the Student Assembly draft a letter to be sent to every member of the state legislature calling on them to revoke *CORCRAFT*'s preferred source status and to accentuate the point that while felons may not have the ability to vote, those directly affected by this issue include the families of those incarcerated as well as the families of those apart of NYCID and NYSPSP; and finally be it,

Resolved that the Student Assembly will send this resolution to the SUNY Board of Trustees, Chancellor Zimpher, The University Faculty Senate, and the Faculty Council of Community Colleges.

### Supplemental Documents

1. NY Corrections Law §§120 and 121 <http://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/laws/COR/121>
2. List of State Prisons <http://www.doccs.ny.gov/faclist.html>
3. List of NY State Prison Programs  
[http://www.doccs.ny.gov/ProgramServices/program\\_list\\_alpha.html](http://www.doccs.ny.gov/ProgramServices/program_list_alpha.html)
4. Recidivism Statistics:  
<https://www.themarshallproject.org/2014/12/04/the-misleading-math-of-recidivism#.3DU8Ri6JL>
5. **state finance law section 163 subsection 3 (I):** “the purchase of commodities by state agencies including the office of general services shall be conducted in a manner which accords first priority to preferred source in accordance with the provisions of this article,”
6. State List Of Preferred Sources:  
<http://www.ogs.state.ny.us/procurecounc/pdfdoc/pslist.pdf>
7. Corcraft Pricing and Specification Guide:  
[http://www.corcraft.org/wcsstore/AdvancedB2BDirect/pdf/2013\\_Price\\_Guide.pdf](http://www.corcraft.org/wcsstore/AdvancedB2BDirect/pdf/2013_Price_Guide.pdf)