



To whom it may concern,

I am writing as the President of the State University of New York Geneseo Student Association, to reaffirm our support for the Students' Bill of Rights. This Bill impacts millions of students across New York State, and will allow for us students to better advocate for ourselves, while being provided with the necessary support from the state government.

This Bill marks an important step forward in allowing for the creation of a Students' Bill of Rights, to advance student success at college and university institutions across the state. Students across SUNY and CUNY institutions are often heavily involved with their campus communities. This bill allows students to lead, advocate, and organize themselves without the fear of involvement or retaliation from the college and university institutions. It makes clear the premise that our voices matter as students and as individuals in higher education.

The Students' Bill of Rights provides a groundbreaking framework for students to be allowed to raise concerns, question decisions made, and if needed, hold their respective institutions accountable. These are critical for keeping trust, and building on transparency on college and university campuses.

Additionally, this Bill understands that students are not just on the receiving end of policy, but should also be contributors to policy. The Students' Bill of Rights acknowledges our experiences, leadership, and our ability to shape our future at college and university institutions. By supporting this Bill, you will be investing in a stronger, more equitable, and more democratic future for students, and higher education in New York State.

Respectfully,

Lucas Pastwik

President of the State University of New York Geneseo Student Association



Adelante Student Voices

P.O Box 3023

Poughkeepsie, NY 12603

MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT

S.5632A (Ramos) / A.7400 (Kelles) — Student Bill of Rights

Adelante Student Voices strongly supports S.5632A / A.7400, the Student Bill of Rights, which protects every student attending a SUNY OR A CUNY School the fundamental right expression in campus governance —regardless of immigration status, income, race, gender identity, disability,— to a safe, inclusive, and equitable education

As a grassroots organization based in the Hudson Valley, Adelante Student Voices works directly with undocumented students and their families to dismantle the structural barriers that prevent them from accessing higher education. Every day, we see how systemic inequities exclusion from tuition assistance, discrimination in school policies, lack of culturally responsive support services directly harm students' academic achievement, mental health, and sense of belonging.

This legislation presents a visionary and urgently needed framework to establish:

- As a clear pathway allowing ours students to finally safely advocate for themselves without fear of retaliation or harm on student governments and by forming clubs and associations.
- Protection against discrimination on the basis of immigration status, gender, and other marginalized identities;
- Student voice and leadership in educational decision-making processes;
- A statewide commitment to educational justice grounded in human dignity and equity.

At a time when immigrant students, LGBTQ+ youth, and students of color are under increasing attack across the country, New York must lead with clarity and courage. S.5632A / A.7400 offers a bold affirmation of the principle that education is a right, not a privilege—and that the state has an affirmative obligation to ensure all students are seen, supported, and free to thrive.

We urge the New York State Legislature to pass the Student Bill of Rights without delay. Our communities, our students, and our future demand it.

Susie Ximenez

Executive Director

Adelante Student Voices

845 332 5386



MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT

S. 5632A / A. 7400 (Senator Jackson / Assemblymember Epstein)

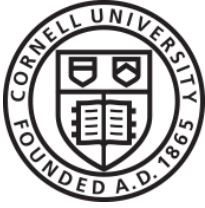
May 17th, 2025

On behalf of the Graduate Student Employees Union (CWA Local 1104), we write in strong support of this legislation, which would establish a Students' Bill of Rights within the State University of New York (SUNY) and City University of New York (CUNY) systems. As graduate student workers and union members, we are both students and employees deeply embedded in the academic fabric of public higher education. This bill provides essential protections and affirmations of student rights—especially regarding student journalism and expression—that are long overdue and directly impact the quality, transparency, and democratic values of our institutions.

Graduate students often rely on student-run media to elevate campus issues that directly affect our working and learning conditions—from labor disputes to administrative transparency. Ensuring that student journalists and their advisors are protected from censorship or retaliation not only upholds First Amendment principles but also strengthens campus communities by fostering accountability and open dialogue. These protections are particularly critical in a time when graduate labor and student activism are increasingly under scrutiny and face institutional resistance.

We urge swift passage of this bill to affirm that SUNY and CUNY institutions are spaces where intellectual freedom, press rights, and student voices are not only respected but enshrined in law. The Students' Bill of Rights is a crucial step toward protecting those who work, study, and organize in New York's public universities, and we stand in solidarity with all efforts to enshrine these rights in state law. Thank you for your attention to this matter and your commitment to the democratic principles of higher education.

The Graduate Student Employees Union represents all Teaching and Graduate Assistants enrolled in SUNY, the largest state university system in the nation. We are run by and for graduate students, and we constantly work to improve our collective research and our living and working conditions. We work to maintain and extend our benefits, wages, and rights. We recognize that graduate student teaching and research lie at the heart of a great public university, and we believe that as our conditions improve, so, too, will the strength of SUNY.



Student Assembly

To whom it may concern,

My name is Christian Flournoy, and I am writing as the Executive Vice President of Cornell University's Student Assembly—and on behalf of the Student Assembly Executive Board—in support of the New York State Senate Student's Bill of Rights (S.5632A / A.7400). The bill's aim to protect expression, participation, and representation of SUNY and CUNY student governance directly aligns with the Student Assembly's objective to effect and improve involvement of Cornell's undergraduate students in campus governance. Establishing a state-wide commitment for institutions to operate with their undergraduate student's best interests in mind ensures the voices of college students throughout New York State are being heard, acknowledged, and seriously considered.

The passage of the bill would increase trust between students and their respective institutions while also enhancing the value of student opinions at the administrative and state-wide levels. The necessity for freedom of expression on college campuses has allowed students from universities throughout the state to share their views accurately and effectively represent larger groups of students. Through my experience as one of two undergraduate students who served on Cornell's Expressive Activity Policy Committee, and the Executive Board being comprised of SUNY delegates and contract college students, we understand the importance of student freedoms being protected throughout the state. Institutional support for freedom of expression will aid in bridging the gap between students and the administration, and lead to an improved and more cohesive New York State student governance. I, along with the entirety of the Cornell Student Assembly Executive Board, strongly support this bill and urge its passing.

Respectfully,

Christian Flournoy, *College of Human Ecology '27*

Executive Vice President, Cornell University Student Assembly

President, Alpha Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated

Zora de Rham, *College of Agriculture & Life Sciences* '27

President, Cornell University Student Assembly

SUNY Student Assembly University Center Caucus Representative

Daniel Addoquaye, *Jeb E. Brooks School of Public Policy* '28

Vice President for Policy, Cornell University Student Assembly

Hayden Watkins, *Jeb E. Brooks School of Public Policy* '28

Vice President for Finance, Cornell University Student Assembly

Thor Waguespack, *Jeb E. Brooks School of Public Policy* '28

Vice President for Communications, Cornell University Student Assembly

Kennedy Young, *Jeb E. Brooks School of Public Policy* '28

Vice President for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, Cornell University Student Assembly

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Chief of Staff, Cornell University Student Assembly

Agnes Coleman, *School of Industrial & Labor Relations* '26

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Niles Hite, *College of Agriculture & Life Sciences* '26

Executive Archivist, Cornell University Student Assembly



COLLEGE DEMOCRATS OF NEW YORK

COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR
KIARA TOBIAS-ARIAS
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Subject: S.5632A / A.7400

May 19th, 2025

Dear New York State Senate Committee on Higher Education,

On behalf of the College Democrats of New York (CDNY), representing thousands of students, including those on State University of New York (SUNY) and City University of New York (CUNY) campuses, we write in full support of S.5632A / A.7400, the legislation to enact a Students' Bill of Rights.

A Students' Bill of Rights is crucial to instilling democratic values on college campuses by ensuring students' fundamental rights to free expression, fair representation, and participatory governance. As developing leaders in the state of New York, students deserve a say in the formation of policies that dictate their academic and political environment. S.5632A / A.7400 recognizes this. Among its most significant provisions, this bill protects the right of student leaders to communicate freely with their peers without administrative intervention. Students' liberty to act in accordance with their shared values invites a freedom that has long been overdue.

In addition, we commend the bill's protections of student journalists, who often face pressure when reporting on institutional issues. By preventing administrative retaliation and protecting editorial independence, this bill safeguards one of the most important democratic institutions on campus. We strongly believe that no student editorial should be subject to prior restraint, and S.5632A / A.7400 acknowledges this

Too often, students are treated as passive consumers of higher education rather than as engaged participants in their communities. This bill reverses that pattern, affirming that students are to have a voice not just in classroom discussions, but also in the governance and culture of their institutions.

As the College Democrats of New York, we strongly believe in the protection and empowerment of students across the state of New York. That is why the CDNY urges all representatives across the board to support and adopt the Students' Bill of Rights.

**Sincerely,
Tyler Toledo**

**President
College Democrats of New York
collegedemsny@gmail.com
www.collegedemsny.org**