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Resolution Urging Santa Clara University to Provide Comprehensive Public Health Needs

Authored by Madeline Moynihan, Senator At-Large for Health and Wellness
Co-authored by Emma Samaniego, Senator At-Large for Socioeconomic Justice & Sustainability
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ADDRESSED TO:

Jeanne Rosenberger, Vice Provost for Student Life & Dean of Students
Jim Lyons, Vice President for University Relations
Shá Duncan Smith, Vice President for Inclusive Excellence
Reverend John P. McGarry, Director of Campus Ministry
Heather Dumas-Dyer, Associate Vice Provost for Student Health, Counseling and Well-Being
Meredith Lierk, Director of Wellness Center



Resolution Urging Santa Clara University to Provide Comprehensive Public Health Needs April 11, 2024

The Student Senate,

HAVING CONSIDERED that sexual health services, education, and contraceptives are widely available throughout other non-Catholic university campuses such as [Stanford University](#), [University of Washington](#), [Chapman University](#), and [Pomona College](#) —

FURTHER RECOGNIZING that one out of every two sexually active people will contract a sexually transmitted disease (STD) [before the age of 25](#) and nearly half of the 20 million STDs diagnosed each year are among young people aged 15–24 years and can [have lifelong effects](#) —

BEARING IN MIND that around [84% of college students are sexually active](#), and universities that offer contraceptives and high-quality sexual health services have [lower STD rates and reduced rates of sexually risky behaviors](#), such as having unprotected intercourse —

ACKNOWLEDGING that while the Cowell Student Health Services is currently not permitted to provide contraception or education on preventative measures, students are disproportionately affected by their life experiences. Students often choose the Cowell Health Center as their primary healthcare provider due to its accessibility. Being redirected to pharmacies or clinics off-campus creates barriers for specific demographics, including [women](#), [queer individuals](#), [people of color](#), [people with disabilities](#), and [international students](#). Marginalized individuals often lack the resources necessary to access contraceptives, such as transportation, time, money, and comprehensive sex education. Therefore, not providing adequate information and contraceptives through the Cowell Student Health Center directly goes against the Jesuit values of [“people for and with others”, which embodies the spirit of giving and providing service to those in need](#) —

UNDERSTANDING that the overall rate of nonconsensual sexual contact in college campuses is [~13%](#) and that Santa Clara University has had prevalent rates of sexual assault, including drug-facilitated sexual assault—there is an apparent need for prevention, protection, and rehabilitation. Sexual violence can also lead to unwanted potential pregnancies, at a [~5% rate among survivors of reproductive age](#), which can further harm their physical and psychological health. Emergency contraception acts to prevent unwanted pregnancies and is a central part of

providing comprehensive care to sexual assault survivors. Providing sexual health services and contraceptives to the student body would, therefore, foster a sexually safe and positive environment which would protect students from the unwanted consequences of nonconsensual acts —

LASTLY RECOGNIZING that the Jesuit education of Santa Clara University promotes the principle of “cura personalis”, and the mission of “educating the whole person—mind, body, and soul—and preparing students to create a more just, humane, and sustainable world”, which should include the right to good health, autonomy, and safety. Additionally, as The Columbia Library Journal writes, “By denying students on-campus access to contraceptive services, Jesuit universities deny students full bodily autonomy and restrict their ability to act upon decisions they feel will enhance their bodily and mental health, both of which are central to core Jesuit principles.” Santa Clara University can be the first Jesuit University to offer comprehensive sex education, sexual health services, and contraceptives to students —

BE IT RESOLVED that we, the Associated Student Government of Santa Clara University, implore the administration to acknowledge the need for high-quality sexual health services and education to promote students’ overall health and well-being throughout our university.

We urge the administration to provide contraceptives, including but not limited to condoms and dental dams, at no cost, for the purpose of protecting students from STDs and maintaining their bodily autonomy in these areas of campus:

- Cowell Student Health Center
- Wellness Center
- The Rainbow Resource Center
- All On-Campus Gender-Neutral and Communal Restrooms
- All Residential Learning Communities and On-Campus Housing

We urge the administration to provide comprehensive sexual health education to students, including, but not limited to:

- Comprehensive changes and updates to the Sexual Health section of the Santa Clara University Cowell Center website regarding:
 - Contraception Methods
 - Birth Control and Pregnancy
 - Sexually Transmitted Infections
 - Women and Men’s Specific Sexual Healthcare
 - Queer-inclusive Sexual Healthcare
- Educational programs during first-year and transfer students' orientations
- Educational opportunities (events, panels, resources, etc.) throughout the academic year

So signed by the following individuals, representative of the collective approval of the Associated Student Government of Santa Clara University.



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Senator At-Large for Health and
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Senator At-Large for Socioeconomic
Justice
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Senator At-Large for International,
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Endorsements and Contributions

- LILLY HUMBER endorses as the Associated Student Government's Student Body President
- WILLA WEINSHEIMER endorses on behalf of Santa Clara University's Peer Health Educators (PHEs)
- CLAIRE KREBS endorses on behalf of Safe Walk SCU and as the Associated Student Government's Senator At-Large for Student Safety
- NINA GLICK endorses on behalf of Ignite
- ABBY CROWLEY endorses on behalf of the Mindfulness Club
- ALEXA PRITCHARD endorses as the Associated Student Government's Senator At-Large for Greek Life Relations and former Panhellenic President
- HENNA KARA endorses on behalf of Partners in Health Engage SCU
- CAMILLE HARDIE endorses on behalf of the Belles Service Organization
- MAYA VASUDEV and MALIA GIBBS endorse on behalf of Santa Clara University's Queer People of Color Association