



**Undergraduate
Student Government**

UNIVERSITY OF IOWA UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT

**September 27th, 2022
Student Senate Session
S.S.R. #2**

Sponsors: Senator Knox, Senator Williamsen
Referred to: Health and Safety Committee
Student Senate Action: Passed/Failed/Tabled

A Resolution

On the subject of accessible reproductive healthcare for all applicable at the University of Iowa.

Section 1: Short Title

This resolution may be cited as the “Resolution on the subject of Reproductive Healthcare Accessibility.”

Section 2: Background and Discussion

Whereas, access to reproductive health information and services is critical to the well-being of all persons around the world and is closely linked to various aspects of people’s lives including workforce participation, educational attainment, healthy relationships, as well as social and economic mobility¹; and

Whereas, the World Health Organization (WHO) defines reproductive health as an integral component of complete well-being, noting that reproductive health indicates that individuals “...have a responsible, satisfying and safe sex life and that they have the capability to reproduce and the freedom to decide if, when and how often to do so” as well as access to “safe, effective, affordable and acceptable methods of fertility regulation”²; and,

¹ <https://www.usaid.gov/global-health/health-areas/reproductive-health>

² https://www.who.int/health-topics/sexual-health#tab=tab_

Whereas, when people are informed about reproductive health, they are equipped with the knowledge, confidence, and skills to make autonomous and healthy decisions about their bodies and relationships³; and

Whereas, expanding accessibility of reproductive health services to include telehealth options allows individuals to interact with health care providers while practicing social distancing to reduce exposure to COVID-19 and offers more flexibility to meet with health care providers⁴; and

Whereas, 52% of college students have been sexually active within the past 12 months based on the latest data from the National College Health Assessment, and only 27% of college students reported always using a condom or other protective barrier⁵; and

Whereas, a reproductive emergency could prevent a person from continuing their education and eventually prevent them from graduating if not provided with the proper access to reproductive care; and,

Whereas, as of 2019 65.3% of all individuals menstruating were using a form of contraceptive accessible through reproductive health providers⁶; and,

Whereas, other Big 10 schools such as Indiana University have already taken steps to ensure their students, staff, and faculty will always have the necessary access to reproductive healthcare on campus⁷; and,

Whereas, reproductive healthcare affects several other systems in the body besides just reproductive organs and is vital to eliminating health disparities, reducing rates of infectious diseases and infertility, increasing educational attainment, career opportunities, and financial stability; and,

Whereas, providing students with proper sexual and reproductive healthcare will give them access to long- and short-acting reversible contraception which will in turn support and encourage them to live safe and healthy lives⁸; and,

Section 3: Action

³ <https://plan-international.org/srhr/access-to-srhr-services/>

⁴ <https://www.guttmacher.org/article/2020/05/ten-things-state-policymakers-can-do-protect-access-reproductive-health-care-during>

⁵ <https://www.onlineu.com/resources/reproductive-health-care-college>

⁶ <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/products/databriefs/db388.htm>

⁷ <https://sexualitystudies.indiana.edu>

⁸ <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2666334120300386>

Resolved, the Undergraduate Student Government (USG) at the University of Iowa respectfully encourages University Officials to continue to support reproductive healthcare at the University of Iowa and for all persons in the University of Iowa community to utilize university reproductive health services, ensuring the health and safety of our faculty, staff, and student body.

Resolved, USG recommend appropriate consideration and plans be made for the University of Iowa Student Health and the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics facilities to ensure they will always provide quality care to all persons seeking reproductive services and increase awareness of reproductive services offered to all university students, faculty, and staff.

Therefore, be it resolved that, upon passage by the Undergraduate Student Government at the University of Iowa, and with the signature from President Johnson, the University of Iowa continues offering students with reproductive health resources, drafts a plan of action to offer widespread access to reproductive healthcare services and resources, and immediately enact a policy to increase funding and accessibility to reproductive health services on the University of Iowa campus for faculty, staff, and students.

Be It Finally Resolved, this resolution shall be sent to the Office of the Dean of the College of Education, the Office of the Dean of the College of Engineering, the Office of the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the Office of the Dean of the College of Nursing, the Office of the Dean of the College of Public Health, the Office of the Dean of the Tippie College of Business, and the Office of the President.

4. Enactment Clause

Be it enacted by the University of Iowa Undergraduate Student Government upon the signature of President Johnson.

I hereby attest and certify that this bill originated from the 2022-2023 Legislative Session.

Alexis Carfrae

USG Speaker of the Senate Alexis Carfrae

APPROVED on 9/27/22

Patrick Johnson

USG President Patrick Johnson