

Student Assembly

Resolution 36: Addressing Recent Extraordinary Actions of the Federal Government

Abstract: This resolution condemns specific actions recently taken by the Federal Government that impact the student body.

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Type of Action: Sense-of-the-Body

Originally Presented: 02/27/2025

Current Status: Placed on the Second Reading Calendar, 02/27/2025

Whereas, various colleges at Cornell University depend on federal funding for research funding, including, but not limited to, money distributed by the National Institute of Health and the Department of Education.

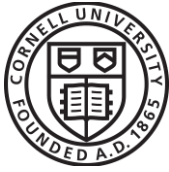
Whereas, the federal government primarily, but not only, through the Department of Government Efficiency, has sought to slash these funding programs and undermine important research.

Whereas, this Assembly has recognized the threat posed by global warming through Resolution 20 which was passed with unanimous consent. The Paris Climate Accords is an important worldwide effort to address the existential danger posed by global warming.

Whereas, on the first day of the second Trump Administration, the Executive Order titled "PUTTING AMERICA FIRST IN INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENTS" withdrew the United States from the Paris Climate Accords.

Whereas, the circumstances leading up to and during the COVID-19 Pandemic demonstrated the vital importance of international cooperation on health-related matters and the World Health Organization (WHO) is the primary forum for this. The COVID-19 Worldwide Pandemic led to massive disruptions in the education and daily lives of Cornell Students, demonstrating the importance of international cooperation on health.

Whereas, on the first day of the second Trump Administration, the Executive Order titled "WITHDRAWING THE UNITED STATES FROM THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION" withdrew the United States from the WHO.



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30 **Whereas**, Cornell has robust Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion policies that move the University
31 toward Ezra Cornell’s vision of “Any person, Any Study”. Cornell’s Diversity and Inclusion
32 Commitment “recognize[s] people with diverse backgrounds and experiences bring great value
33 to education, discovery, creativity, and engagement”¹.

34 **Whereas**, Cornell is a federal grantee and is bound by specific rules and regulations that come
35 with federal money.

36 **Whereas**, On the first day of the second Trump administration, the Executive Order titled
37 “ENDING RADICAL AND WASTEFUL GOVERNMENT DEI PROGRAMS AND
38 PREFERENCING” was issued.

39 **Whereas**, this Executive Order directed the Office of Management and Budget to terminate all
40 DEI Programs in the federal government, contractors, and grantees, including Cornell.

41 **Whereas**, the United States benefits from the liberal international order, including free trade
42 with our allies in Canada and Mexico, as well as our role in the North Atlantic Treaty
43 Organization (NATO).

44 **Whereas**, these international institutions have strengthened the role of the US as a global leader
45 in research, diplomacy, and finance and have helped cultivate American soft power. This
46 influence has helped make Cornell a globally significant educational institution.

47 **Whereas**, the second Trump administration has sought to undermine these institutions and their
48 functions by imposing trade barriers and eroding the international order.

49 **Whereas**, the United States has become the greatest country in the world due to our Constitution
50 and its institutions and norms, including the separation of powers and checks and balances
51 between the branches of the federal government.

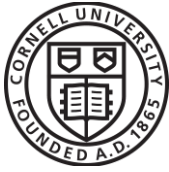
52 **Whereas**, the United States Congress, which is currently under the control of the Republican
53 Party, with a majority of 218 Representatives, has virtually ceded its responsibility to provide
54 oversight on the actions of the Executive Branch.

55 **Whereas**, the federal judiciary has sought to hold the second Trump administration accountable
56 for unconstitutional acts but has faced attacks by the White House, with the current Vice
57 President of the United States, James David Vance, saying, “Judges aren't allowed to control the
58 executive's legitimate power”².

59 **Whereas**, independent agencies within the Executive Branch of the US federal government have
60 a strong impact on the lives of students at Cornell.

¹ <https://diversity.cornell.edu/our-commitments>

² <https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/trump-vance-musk-aim-courts-judges-halt-2nd/story?id=118649658>



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61 **Whereas**, independent agencies such as the National Science Foundation provide research
62 funding that is used to employ students and allow them to pursue their own research.

63 **Whereas**, The Environmental Protection Agency, which is an independent agency, is important
64 to combat climate change, to which Cornell is committed.

65 **Whereas**, The National Labor Relations Board, an independent agency, has sought to protect
66 workers in the Ithaca community.

67 **Whereas**, the nonpartisan nature of these independent agencies is necessary for them to function
68 properly and yet they were brought under partisan oversight by the Executive Order titled
69 “Ensuring Accountability for All Agencies”.

70 **Be it therefore resolved**, the Student Assembly, representing the undergraduate student body of
71 Cornell University, condemns these extraordinary actions of the Trump administration.

72 **Be it further resolved**, the Undergraduate Student Assembly recognizes the dangers posed by
73 cuts to various federal agencies, including research funding and support for Diversity, Equity,
74 and Inclusion initiatives.

75 **Be it further resolved**, the Undergraduate Student Assembly calls on Cornell to continue its
76 commitment to establishing a diverse community despite the attacks on Diversity, Equity and
77 Inclusion initiatives.

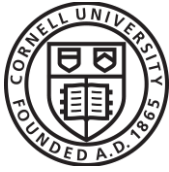
78 **Be it further resolved**, the Undergraduate Student Assembly calls on Cornell University to
79 continue cooperating with international research partners despite the United States’ withdrawal
80 from the World Health Organization.

81 **Be it further resolved**, the Undergraduate Student Assembly calls on Cornell University to
82 continue to adhere to the climate goals set forth in Resolution 20, which was passed by the
83 Undergraduate Student Assembly with unanimous consent.

84 **Be it further resolved**, the Undergraduate Student Assembly lauds Cornell University for
85 attempting to protect existing research by joining the lawsuit filed by the Association of
86 American Universities (AAU), the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities (APLU),
87 and the American Council on Education (ACE)³.

88 **Be it further resolved**, the University will seek to find alternative sources of funding for
89 research projects and other groups that receive federal grants if their funding is cut to allow them
90 to continue their work.

³<https://cornellsun.com/2025/02/11/cornell-11-other-universities-sue-nih-after-multi-million-dollar-grant-cuts-announced/>



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Be it further resolved, that the University's administration work with the Student Assembly to develop resources for those students impacted by the actions of the federal government. We call on the administration of Cornell University to join the Assembly in combating these draconian policies.

Be it further resolved, the Student Assembly, representing the Undergraduate body at Cornell, calls on the other assemblies of the shared governance structure and the Board of Trustees to join us in condemning these policies.

Be it finally resolved, that the Assembly condemns the role of plutocrats in the Trump administration and the assaults on our Constitutional order, which has made this country the envy of the world.

Respectfully Submitted,

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