



116th STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSEMBLY
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

1 University Station, A6210 · Austin, TX 78712-0810
(512) 471 – 3166 · Fax: (512) 471-3408 · <http://www.utsg.org>

Executive Summary

A.R. 02 In Support of An Emergency Contraception Vending Machine

This resolution seeks to install a vending machine that includes emergency contraception in a gender-neutral bathroom in an accessible building on the University of Texas at Austin campus. Currently, students do not have a pharmacy on campus that subsidizes purchases of emergency contraception, and their access to reproductive health services is limited by the passing of S.B. 8 from the Texas Legislature. A survey run by EC4EC also found that a majority of students face difficulties when trying to obtain emergency contraception because of arbitrary restrictions that pharmacies place upon the sale of emergency contraception and the high cost of emergency contraception. The stigma surrounding sexual health products also makes it difficult for students to purchase emergency contraception. The introduction of such a vending machine would ease the stress associated with purchasing emergency contraception, contributing to students' physical, emotional, and academic well-being.

Frequently asked questions:

1. How would such a vending machine be installed?

Many vending machine vendors offer smaller vending machine units that can be fitted to dispense emergency contraception boxes and can take both cash and card as payment. Once such a vending machine is purchased, it just needs access to a power source. Boston University recently (in March 2022) installed such a vending machine in their student center.

2. Where would the emergency contraception to stock the machine be purchased from?

Several vendors offer organizations the option to bulk purchase emergency contraception at less than 9 dollars per unit. EC4EC has been in contact with two vendors, R&S Northeast and NorthStar Partners that have offered bulk purchasing contracts. The emergency contraception could then be sold for the same cost to students, minimizing the financial burden placed on the school and on students.

3. Why is this necessary?

Reproductive justice is the right to maintain personal bodily autonomy, have children, and not have children—offering students access to an over the counter medication that helps them control whether or not they wish to be pregnant fulfills the goal of reproductive justice in a holistic and compassionate way. The university has a vested interest in the well-being and health of its students, and ensuring that students have full access to reproductive health services contributes significantly towards the well-being of students.

A.R. 02

In Support of An Emergency Contraception Vending Machine

Authors: KAKKAD, NIKITA (*Student, Cockrell School of Engineering and College of Liberal Arts*), DIRECTOR ISHA PARIKH (*Women's Resource Agency, Student Government*), PRESIDENT LELAND MURPHY (*Student Government*), VICE PRESIDENT ISABEL AGBASSI (*Student Government*)

Sponsors: CHAIR ADRIAN TRISTÁN (*Ethics and Oversight Committee, University-Wide*), CHAIR HELEN GETACHEW (*Student Affairs Committee, University-Wide*), SPEAKER PRO-TEMPORE JEROLD HOLMAN (*Rules and Regulations Committee, University-Wide*), CHAIR BRIAN PENA (*Governmental Affairs Committee, College of Liberal Arts*), CHAIR DIEGO COLLAZO (*Academic Affairs, College of Liberal Arts*), REPRESENTATIVE DADRIEN WHITTINGTON (*College of Liberal Arts*), Representative Ainsley Cindric (*Transfer Representative, Senate Member*) REPRESENTATIVE Joseph Ho-Shing (*College of Natural Sciences*)

WHEREAS, Students at the University of Texas at Austin do not have access to an on campus pharmacy that offers over the counter medications; and,

WHEREAS, The implementation of S.B. 8 from the Texas Legislature has significantly negatively impacted access to reproductive health services to prevent pregnancy; and,

WHEREAS, Emergency contraception is defined as 1.5mg Levonorgestrel pills that prevent pregnancy through delaying ovulation or preventing implantation, different from Mifepristone and Misoprostol (commonly known as 'abortion pills'), which is sold under various names like Plan B One-Step, Take Action, MyChoice, etc.; and,

WHEREAS, According to the EC4EC survey with over 500 responses, 61.04% of students found it difficult or extremely difficult to access emergency contraception; and,

WHEREAS, According to the same survey, 34.53% of students wanted to purchase emergency contraception but decided not to at one point, with the highest reason being the high cost of emergency contraception; and,

WHEREAS, According to the same survey, 85.98% of students said that their biggest concern when obtaining emergency contraception is how much it will cost; and,

WHEREAS, According to the same survey, 57.82% of students said that when purchasing emergency contraception, they are concerned about having to interact with a pharmacist or drugstore worker; and,

WHEREAS, At the two stores that are walking-distance of the University of Texas at Austin campus and offer emergency contraception for purchase, Target and CVS, emergency contraception is kept in a locked box, averages about \$40-\$50 per recommended dose, is often out of stock, and individuals wishing to purchase emergency contraception must ask a pharmacist or store worker to retrieve it for them; and,

WHEREAS, There are pharmacies, grocery stores, and online vendors that offer emergency contraception ranging anywhere from \$10-\$40 but these locations are not walking distance from the University of Texas at Austin or do not arrive within the recommended use time; and,

WHEREAS, According to the same survey, 86.04% of students would support a vending machine that included emergency contraception that the University of Texas at Austin supplied; and,

WHEREAS, There are over 30 college campuses across the United States that offer emergency contraception in a vending machine like Stanford, Dartmouth, the University of California system, Boston University, and many others; and,

WHEREAS, The Bridge Collective emergency contraception hotline that delivers free emergency contraception to individuals in the Austin area receives requests for emergency contraception at a rate 10 times higher from the 78705 and 78712 zip codes (zip codes that are saturated with a student population) than any other Austin zip code; and,

WHEREAS, Emergency contraception is included within the umbrella of reproductive health services and difficulty in accessing health services or having to pay a significant amount to do so significantly affects students' emotional and academic well-being; and,

WHEREAS, This resolution aims to speak on behalf of students and not University officials; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the University of Texas at Austin Student Government recommend that the university install a vending machine that includes emergency contraception and

other sexual health supplies in a gender-neutral bathroom in a building that is open to students at all hours of the day; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the university work directly with Emergency Contraception 4 Every Campus to carry out this initiative to best implement it in a way that suits student needs; therefore be it,

BE IT RESOLVED, The EC4EC team will assist in creating an informational flyer about Plan B, similar to the informational materials that are already included in the Plan B kits that they distribute, which discuss how an individual should take Plan B and potential associated side effects, to ensure that students are fully informed on medications they take while also understanding that Plan B is clinically proven to be a safe OTC medication; and therefore,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be sent to the Daily Texan, the Office of the Dean of Students, the Office of the President, and Stephanie Dodoo (Associate Director for Health Equity and DEI initiatives for HealthyHorns.)

A.R. 02 Decision Paperwork

Presented to the Assembly for the *First Reading* on: 03/29/22

Committed to: Student Affairs Committee on 03/29/22

Presented to the Assembly of the *Second Reading* on: 04/05/22

The Decision of the 116th Assembly

Ayes: 26 Nays: 1 Abstentions: 0 Date: 04/05/22

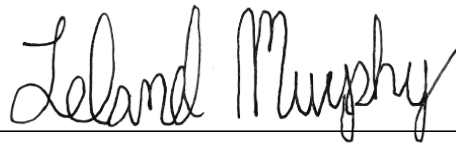
Certified by



Kevin Roberts, *Speaker of the Assembly*
Date: 04/06/22

Vacant Role, *Clerk of the Assembly*
Date: XX/XX/22

President's Decision



Leland Murphy, *Student Body President*

Date: 04/07/22