



Hoos for Inclusive Sexual Education

To President Ryan, the Board of Visitors, and the University Community:

Hoos for Inclusive Sexual Education (HISE) is an organization on Grounds which was founded in 2018 with a mission to advocate for and educate on LGBTQ+ inclusive and comprehensive sexual education. With this mission comes a responsibility to attempt to remove any and all barriers that individuals face to prevent sexually transmitted infections (STIs). **We release this letter to implore the University to implement a free-of-charge system at student health for STI testing.**

The current costs associated with STI testing are inherent barriers to sexual health for students. Decreases in cost over time have been promising, however, they are not enough. An approach to wholly inclusive sexual advocacy comes with a necessity for financial accessibility. Both of the local free testing options (Planned Parenthood & Thomas Jefferson Health District) are far distances from Grounds. Additionally, although one's health insurance would most likely cover the cost, a student who is under their guardian's health insurance might not want their guardian to know they are sexually active. To remove these barriers, free STI testing is a requisite.

This measure is not solely a strategy to increase accessibility and inclusivity in sexual health, it has also proven necessary. In recent years, free STI testing events by both the LGBTQ Center and Student Council have consistently run out of tests; illustrating that rather than being 'once a semester events', free STI testing should be a University policy. We have the opportunity to set the tone for a national conversation and set ourselves apart from other Universities in the Commonwealth. STI rates nationwide have reached historic highs for three years in a row (and college campuses are epicenters of disease spread). By putting in place this policy, the University would be a pioneer in both the prevention of STIs and the promotion of student sexual health.

We recognize that there are large costs associated with this policy and would welcome the opportunity to devise strategies to accomplish it.

The HISE Executive Board

*****Comment as a suggested edit and we'll accept when we get a chance***

Student Organization Signatories:

Camp Kesem UVA
University Democrats at UVA
University Records at UVA
Pakistani Students' Association at UVA
Asian Student Union at UVA
Korean Student Association at UVA
Virginia Student Environmental Association at UVA
Minority Rights Coalition at UVA
Central Americans for Empowerment at UVA
Queer Student Union at UVA
Out in STEM at Virginia
UVA Student Council
Solar Car Team at UVA
The Organization of Young Filipino Americans
The Q* Anthology of Queer Culture
Young Democratic Socialists of America at UVA

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Kayden Stockwell (ks6hv) (GSAS '24)
Jessica Laudie (jl5pd) (CLAS '22)
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Leo Smith (cms6uwn) (CLAS '23)
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