

COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

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CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

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December 18, 2025

Start: 10:29 a.m.

Recess: 10:33 a.m.

HELD AT: 250 BROADWAY - 8TH FLOOR - HEARING
ROOM 1

B E F O R E: Eric Dinowitz, Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Erik D. Bottcher
Gale A. Brewer
Oswald Feliz
Christopher Marte

OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS ATTENDING:

Rita C. Joseph

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2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: This is a microphone
3 check for the Committee on Higher Education recorded
4 on December 18, 2025, located in Hearing Room 1 by
5 Nazly Paytuvi.

6 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning, and
7 welcome to today's New York City Council vote for the
8 Committee on Higher Education.

9 At this time, please silence all
10 electronic devices.

11 No one may approach the dais at any time.

12 Chair, we are ready to begin.

13 CHAIRPERSON DINOWITZ: [GAVEL] Good
14 morning, I'm Council Member Eric Dinowitz, Chair of
15 the Committee on Higher Education.

16 Today, the Committee will vote on
17 Resolution Number. 500-2024, sponsored by Council
18 Member Rita Joseph, which would call on the New York
19 State Legislature to introduce and pass, and the
20 Governor to sign, legislation entitled the New York
21 State College Safety Act to require that all campuses
22 of the State University of New York and the City
23 University of New York permit autoimmune and
24 immunocompromised students and faculty to learn and
25 teach via remote instruction in as many courses as

feasible whenever students or faculty are dealing with an unpredictable or temporarily debilitating impact of their condition. The Committee originally heard this Resolution at our hearing on October 28th of this year, and I would now ask Council Member Joseph to provide remarks on her legislation.

COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: Good morning, Chair Dinowitz and Members of the Committee on Higher Ed.

I'm thrilled my Reso. 500, introduced in 2024, is being voted on today. Resolution 500 calls on the New York State Legislature to introduce and pass, and the Governor to sign, legislation entitled the New York State College Safety Act. The legislation would require all campuses of State University and City University of New York to permit autoimmune and immunocompromised students and faculty to learn and teach remotely in many courses as feasible when their conditions are unpredictable or temporarily debilitating impact. Across our State and City College, many students, professionals, and professors live with autoimmune or immunocompromised conditions that prevent them from fully participating in-person instructions at certain times. This

resolution seeks to ensure that these individuals are provided reasonable accommodations so they can continue learning and teaching without interruption through remote instruction. At its core, this resolution is about flexibility and access in ensuring that New Yorkers can continue to pursue education and employment while managing health conditions that society has not yet found a way to eliminate. I also commend Emmanuel Sessagon (phonetic) for his advocacy and for working collaboratively with my team to help move this issue from problem identification to a meaningful policy solution that will benefit thousands of New Yorkers across the city and state. I also thank the Central Staff for their work in drafting this resolution. Thank you, Chair Dinowitz.

CHAIRPERSON DINOWITZ: Thank you, Council Member Joseph.

I would like to thank my Staff and the Committee Staff who worked on preparing for today, including Adam Staropoli, my Legislative and Budget Director; Jenna Klaus, my Chief-of-Staff; Judith Goldsmith-Pinkham, the Committee's Senior Legislative Counsel, and of course Regina Paul, the Committee's

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2 Senior Policy Analyst, who also drafted the
3 Resolution.

4 We are ready for the vote.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Good
6 morning. William Martin, Committee Clerk. Roll call
7 vote, Committee on Higher Education. Proposed
8 Resolution 500-A.

9 Chair Dinowitz.

10 CHAIRPERSON DINOWITZ: I vote aye.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Feliz.
12 Bottcher.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER BOTTCHEER: Aye.

14 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Brewer.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Yes.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Marte.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER MARTE: Aye.

18 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: With a
19 vote of four on the affirmative...

20 CHAIRPERSON DINOWITZ: Hold on one second,
21 we have one other Member joining.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Council
23 Member Feliz.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER FELIZ: I vote aye.
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2 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank
3 you.

4 With a vote of five in the affirmative,
5 zero in the negative, and no abstentions, Resolution
6 has been adopted by the Committee.

7 Mr. Chair, that is a full Committee.

8 CHAIRPERSON DINOWITZ: Thank you, Billy.

9 This hearing is closed. [GAVEL]

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C E R T I F I C A T E

World Wide Dictation certifies that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. We further certify that there is no relation to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that there is interest in the outcome of this matter.



Date December 29, 2025