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COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

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

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

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

11 I'm thrilled my Reso. 500, introduced in  
12 2024, is being voted on today. Resolution 500 calls  
13 on the New York State Legislature to introduce and  
14 pass, and the Governor to sign, legislation entitled  
15 the New York State College Safety Act. The  
16 legislation would require all campuses of State  
17 University and City University of New York to permit  
18 autoimmune and immunocompromised students and faculty  
19 to learn and teach remotely in many courses as  
20 feasible when their conditions are unpredictable or  
21 temporarily debilitating impact. Across our State and  
22 City College, many students, professionals, and  
23 professors live with autoimmune or immunocompromised  
24 conditions that prevent them from fully participating  
25 in-person instructions at certain times. This

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

18 CHAIRPERSON DINOWITZ: Thank you, Council  
19 Member Joseph.

20 I would like to thank my Staff and the  
21 Committee Staff who worked on preparing for today,  
22 including Adam Staropoli, my Legislative and Budget  
23 Director; Jenna Klaus, my Chief-of-Staff; Judith  
24 Goldsmith-Pinkham, the Committee's Senior Legislative  
25 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 BOTTCHER: 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