

A Resolution to Provide Free Influenza Immunizations to All Undergraduate Students

Emma Meersman (for herself, Kinza Sami, Amraha Nadeem, Michaela Murphy, Imani Davis, Maria Humayun, Shivani Patel, Paige Bennett, Megan Ferguson, Rebecca Slavik, Anthony Long, Savannah Sockwell, Halima Mohamed, Safiyo Mohamud, Jordan Malpass, and Salma Shire) introduced the following resolution to the Steering Committee, where it passed.

* * *

Whereas the Undergraduate Student Government represents all undergraduate students at The Ohio State University, and

Whereas during the 2015-2016 flu season the Center for Disease Control (CDC) estimated that 5.1 million illnesses, 2.5 million medical visits, and 71,000 hospitalizations were averted by flu immunizations,¹ and

Whereas college students are at an increased risk for transmission and contraction of the flu due to frequent social contact and high-density living conditions,² and

Whereas infection rates as high as 73% have been reported among college student populations,² and

Whereas the University of Nebraska,³ University of Wisconsin-Madison,⁴ University of Minnesota,⁵ University of Illinois,⁶ Indiana University,⁷ Columbia University,⁸ University of Colorado-Boulder,⁹ University of Alabama,¹⁰ and Illinois State University¹¹ provide flu shots to students free of charge with presentation of student identification, and

Whereas Student Life Student Health Services (SLSHS) is “out-of-network” for Medicaid, Medicare, and certain insurance companies depending on the coverage offered

¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/disease/2015-16.htm>

² <https://www.hindawi.com/journals/irt/2016/4248071/>

³ <https://health.unl.edu/flu>

⁴ <https://www.uhs.wisc.edu/medical/common-student-concerns/flu/>

⁵ <https://boynton.umn.edu/flu-faq>

⁶ <http://mckinley.illinois.edu/fluclinic>

⁷ <http://health.iupui.edu/flu.html>

⁸ <https://health.columbia.edu/staying-healthy/flu>

⁹ <https://www.colorado.edu/health/flu>

¹⁰ <https://www.ua.edu/events/event/40953>

¹¹ <https://healthservices.illinoisstate.edu/flu/>

by the specific plan;¹² therefore, students covered by the aforementioned insurance plans will be billed for \$37 for flu vaccinations,¹³ and

Whereas this cost may present significant financial barriers to students wishing to receive this service, and

Whereas transportation to providers within network may present another barrier to students wishing to receive this service, of particular mention are out-of-state students and underclassmen without access to cars, and

Whereas within the first week of the 2018 spring semester, 47 students presented with influenza-like illness (ILI) symptoms; of these 47, 22 tested positive for influenza A and 3 tested positive for influenza B,¹⁴ and

Whereas the severity of the year's influenza strain demonstrates the necessity for increasing access and decreasing cost of flu vaccines available to students, and

Whereas a study conducted by the University of Minnesota found that of the students experiencing influenza-like illnesses (ILI), approximately 30-41% reported performing poorly on an exam and approximately 54-58% reported performing poorly on an assignment,¹⁵ and

Whereas benefits of flu shots, may include prevention of: school absenteeism and subsequent academic impairment, future health care visits, treatment costs, and spread of infection to other students and faculty members,¹⁶ and

Whereas research specific to undergraduate populations has suggested that flu vaccines are cost-effective,¹⁵ and

Therefore, Let it Be Resolved that the Undergraduate Student Government supports The Ohio State University in the provision of free influenza immunizations to all undergraduate students, and

Let it Further Be Resolved that the Undergraduate Student Government believes The Ohio State University must help remove financial barriers to receiving immunizations to increase the wellness and academic well-being of its students.

¹² <https://shs.osu.edu/insurance-fees/insurance>

¹³ <https://shs.osu.edu/posts/documents/immunization-cost-08-15-2017.pdf>

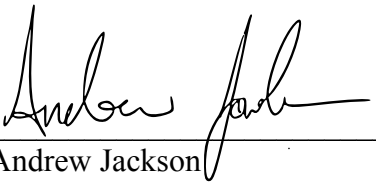
¹⁴ <https://www.thelantern.com/2018/01/25-cases-of-flu-in-first-week-of-spring-semester-on-ohio-states-campus/>

¹⁵ <https://www.academic.oup.com/cid/article/40/9/1263/370417>

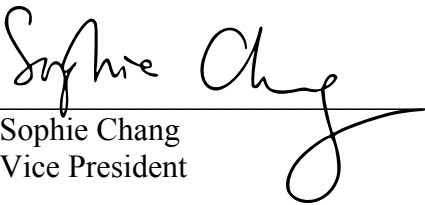
¹⁶ <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamapediatrics/fullarticle/380566>

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Floor Vote: Passed with unanimous consent



Andrew Jackson
President



Sophie Chang
Vice President

Date Adopted: February 7, 2018

Date Terminated: _____